

# The Nation

VOL. XL.—NO. 1028.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1885.

PRICE 10 CENTS.

OFFICE OF THE

## Atlantic Mutual INSURANCE COMPANY.

NEW YORK, January 24, 1885.

The Trustees, in conformity to the Charter of the Company, submit the following Statement of its affairs on the 31st December, 1884.

Premiums on Marine Risks from 1st January, 1884, to 31st December, 1884.....	\$3,058,039 44
Premiums on Policies not marked off 1st January, 1884.....	1,447,756 70
Total Marine Premiums.....	\$5,405,796 14

Premiums marked off from 1st January, 1884, to 31st December, 1884.....	\$4,006,271 04
Losses paid during the same period.....	\$2,109,919 20

Returns of Premiums and Expenses.....	\$787,789 40
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The Company has the following Assets, viz.:

United States and State of New York Stock, City, Bank and other Stocks.....	\$8,770,685 00
Loans, secured by Stocks and otherwise.....	2,005,100 00
Real Estate and Claims due the Company, estimated at.....	440,000 00
Premium Notes and Bills Receivable.....	1,454,959 73
Cash in Bank.....	261,544 05
Amount.....	\$12,638,289 38

Six per cent. interest on the outstanding certificates of profits will be paid to the holders thereof, or their legal representatives on and after Tuesday, the third of February next.

The outstanding certificates of the issue of 1880 will be redeemed and paid to the holders thereof, or their legal representatives, on and after Tuesday, the third of February next, from which date all interest thereon will cease. The certificates to be produced at the time of payment and cancelled.

A dividend of forty per cent. is declared on the net earned premiums of the Company, for the year ending 31st December, 1884, for which certificates will be issued on and after Tuesday, the fifth of May next.

By order of the Board,

J. H. CHAPMAN, Secretary.

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## The Nation.

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# The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1885.

## The Week.

THE action of several Republican Congressmen and Senators, including Messrs. Hiscock, Millard, and Bayne, in calling upon President Cleveland and expressing their hearty approval of his inaugural address, and their willingness to support him in administering the Government in accordance with the spirit therein manifested, is highly commendable and significant. It shows that there are some men in the Republican party who are able to realize that the campaign is over, and that the country has interests which are higher than those of any party. What the country needs is a plain, honest administration of the Government; and if President Cleveland endeavors to give it that, he will not only deserve but will receive the support of everybody except those blind partisans who would rather see a bad Administration than have their plans for 1888 upset by a good one. We have had a surfeit of politics in the administration of the Government for the past eight years. The electoral controversy of 1876 and 1877 carried the partisan bitterness of the campaign far into the Hayes Administration, and almost into the campaign of 1880. The long wrangle over the New York Collectorship in 1881, culminating in the assassination of Garfield, had a similar effect. Partisan critics of President Cleveland are hoping for such a wrangle over his policy as will weaken his Administration, but they will be disappointed. The spirit of the time, as well as the character of the President, is against it. There is no marplot like Blaine in this Cabinet, and there are no signs of such a party quarrel as he brought on in the spring of 1881.

As a general rule, even those who opposed Mr. Cleveland most bitterly during the canvass are, now that he is President, treating him with respect, or at all events with civility. There are, however, some exceptions to this rule. On Wednesday there was a debate in the New York Senate over the proposal to adjourn in honor of the inauguration at Washington, which drew from Senator Gilbert a piece of campaign denunciation of the President, in which he spoke of his inauguration as a "disgrace" and "disaster." In Boston, a few days ago, that eccentric theologian, Joseph Cook, in a so-called religious lecture, delivered himself of a tirade still more offensive and indecent. We have received at this office within a few days a medal which some bitter Republican partisan has actually gone to the expense of having struck off simply for the purpose of inscribing on it insulting remarks about the President. All this only shows that a good many Republicans still feel very sore over their defeat. The number, we know, is diminishing every day, but nothing but time and experience of the new Administration will wholly extinguish their rancor. We refer to the matter now, however, simply for the purpose of reminding them that personal denunciations of the President are in

these times somewhat dangerous, and that it is the duty of every good citizen to refrain from them, at all events in public. The lawfulness of "removing" obnoxious persons in power unhappily has become a very familiar idea in our day, and the country swarms with cranks and fanatics, in whose brain the incautious talk of sensible men may sow the seeds of murder or outrage. Moreover, in this country the old spoils system still has such a hold on the imagination of the worst portion of the population, that it furnishes tens of thousands with a reason for wishing to get a reforming President out of the way, which may any day, under the influence of liquor or disappointment, ripen into action. The excited people who thought the country would be ruined, and proposed to sell their property at fifty cents on the dollar, if a Democratic President came into power, are nearly all restored to their right mind, and are going on with their business as usual. Let the others who worked themselves into the belief that President Cleveland was a stupid profligate, if they cannot at once get over their delusion, at least keep a watch on their tongues.

The selection of Mr. Charles S. Fairchild as his First Assistant Secretary in the Treasury, is probably the very best answer which Mr. Manning could give at present to any doubts which have been inspired by his political antecedents, as to his fidelity to civil-service reform, and as to the principles on which he means to manage the Treasury. Mr. Fairchild, who has not been in office since he held the State Attorney-Generalship in 1876-77, is a man in every respect, political, personal, and professional, of the very highest standing, a promoter of every good cause, a reformer through and through, and eminently qualified both by attainments and experience for the work of his new place in Washington. Mr. Manning would never have put Mr. Fairchild in it if he did not mean to purify the Treasury, and manage it on business principles. Both he and Mr. Whitney have a chance of honest fame which does not come to men once in fifty years, and we cannot help believing that they are aware of it and will use it.

A curious claim is put forward that President Cleveland ought to retain Collector Robertson in office because he has refused to use the patronage of his office in the interest of politics, and has administered it on civil-service-reform principles. The persons who make this claim seem to have short memories. What was the Collector doing at Chicago at the time of the last National Republican Convention? Was there in that city at that time a more enthusiastic or active Blaine man than he? What was he doing throughout the campaign but throwing all his influence in favor of Blaine's election? Not more than a fortnight before the election he was interviewed at some length by a *Tribune* reporter, and said that Cleveland had not a ghost of a chance for carrying New York; that everything was in Blaine's favor. He was a parti-

san from first to last. There was no civil service reform in his appointments, and while he has been shrewd enough to conform outwardly to civil-service regulations in his administration of the Collectorship, he has been throughout his term quietly and faithfully devoted to the Blaine influences which put him in power at so great a cost to his party.

The *Buffalo Express* makes the suggestion that Mr. Evarts ought to be the Republican candidate for Governor this year, because he would be sure to be elected, and he would then be the most likely candidate for the Presidential nomination in 1888. There are several objections to this fine plan. In the first place, if he were elected Governor, it would deprive the Empire State of Mr. Evarts's services in the Senate, where great things are expected of him. In the second place, if he were not elected Governor, his defeat would be certain to depress him and thus detract from the brilliancy of his Senatorial work; and his Presidential boom, which we rejoice to say is now in a flourishing condition, would be prematurely demolished. And he would be very likely to be defeated as Governor from much the same causes which defeated Judge Folger. He would be "knifed" by the friends of other aspirants in his own party. It is a little early to start the campaign for 1888, as Mr. Evarts or any other candidate who makes the experiment will be certain to discover.

The position taken by Mr. Charles Francis Adams, jr., President of the Union Pacific Railroad, in his letter to Senator Hoar concerning the relations of that company to the Government, must impress fair-minded people as at once candid and businesslike. There is no ground for any suspicion that the company, under its present management, has made any concealments or has come short of a full statement of its capabilities, so far as the same are now known, for meeting its pecuniary obligations to the Government. The question is thus reduced to the simplest terms, viz.: Is it for the public interest that the Government should take the property and assume the liability of the prior lien, or fix such terms of payment as its earning capacity and the proper development of the adjacent territory will permit and justify? Care being taken that no security now held shall be lost or impaired, we think that intelligent public opinion will favor the latter policy very decidedly. The burdens imposed upon the Government are sufficiently extensive and onerous, without any unnecessary additions. The resources of statesmanship are already sufficiently taxed, and if ever there was a time poorly adapted to the enlargement of public functions and to new experiments in administration, that time is the present. The Democratic party should be in no haste to add railroading to its other responsibilities.

Ex-Secretary Teller's defence of his action in the matter of the Backbone Land Grant, if not entirely conclusive, is decidedly more respectable than the attack made upon him by

Senator Van Wyck. Since the wind began to blow against land-grants a few years ago, the Department of the Interior has repeatedly called the attention of Congress to the law and the facts relating to the so-called lapsed grants. The law has been settled by the Supreme Court in the sense that a Congressional grant of land remains in force, notwithstanding a failure of the conditions of the grant, until a forfeiture shall have been declared by law. To all intents and purposes, therefore, the Backbone Grant was in the condition of a grant where there had been no breach of conditions. The Secretary of the Interior was bound legally to see it in that light. Nevertheless, he had held back the patents some years, in order to give Congress the opportunity to pass an act of forfeiture if it should choose to do so. No such action was taken, but in place of it a petition was filed in the Department by certain members of Congress requesting the Secretary to withhold the patents still further. Such a request, Mr. Teller justly remarks, is entitled to no more consideration than a petition from an equal number of private citizens in any walk of life. The railroad company, which had finally earned the lands, had rights in the premises, and the question for the executive branch of the Government to consider was whether these rights should be still further denied or postponed at the instance of a few private persons. It is alleged by Mr. Van Wyck and others that the company claiming the grant was not the same one to which it had been originally made, and that the transfer from the old company to the new one was not valid. Upon this point the opinion of the Attorney-General stands opposed to that of Mr. Van Wyck. But even if the opinion of the latter be the better in point of law, it is not the one which the Secretary of the Interior is bound to follow. Very fantastic notions get abroad at times regarding the value of legal authority, but the framework of government has been constituted in such a way that the opinion of the Attorney-General must prevail over that of Senator Van Wyck in a case properly brought before him, in the same way and to the same extent that it prevails over that of Justus Schwab.

General Hazen has sent a request to the new Administration that the court-martial proceedings ordered in his case be not dismissed, alleging as an excuse that rumors had come to his ears that such action was contemplated. As nobody else has heard such rumors, there was no apparent cause for the General's uneasiness. He will have an opportunity to answer the charge against him of having been guilty of the extraordinary conduct of censuring his superior officer, the Secretary of War, both in official communications and in public interviews, and all for the purpose of removing from himself the blame for the failure of the Arctic Relief Expedition and the consequent death by starvation of a part of the Greely party. This blame was placed directly upon him by the court of inquiry, and if President Arthur had done his full duty promptly, General Hazen would have had his case settled by court-martial many months ago.

We trust that the court-martial will make a thorough examination of General Hazen's conduct in the relief-expedition matter and give a final decision upon it. The text of the charges seems to justify such a course. It was shown at the court of inquiry that his negligence, or wilful disobedience of orders, was the direct cause of the failure of the *Proteus* expedition to establish a relief station at the point where the subsequent experiences of the Greely party proved it to be most needed. General Hazen, instead of obeying directions and putting instructions for the establishment of such a station into his official orders to Lieutenant Garlington, merely slipped a memorandum for such instruction into the envelope containing the orders, and privately told Garlington to pay no attention to it. Having done this extraordinary thing, and having been exposed in it, he devoted himself to inditing official criticisms on the course of the Secretary of War, and to "working" the press of the country with whitewash explanations of his conduct.

The deadlock over the Senatorial question in Illinois has reached the stage of turbulence and personal violence. Of course all hope of useful legislation has been abandoned while men's thoughts are excited by the opposing claims of parties and persons to the high office in dispute. It cannot be said that the controversy is any nearer settlement now than it was on the day when the Legislature assembled, since if Mr. Morrison and General Logan should both withdraw, the tie vote would still prevent an election. It has been surmised that some scaly Republican member might be bought with an office, or some corrupt Democrat with money, to give to one or the other party a clear majority. It is scarcely possible that such a transaction could be consummated in the blazing light which has been thrown upon the actors in the struggle, and we feel very sure that neither Colonel Morrison nor General Logan would be a party to any questionable methods for securing the prize for which they have been respectively nominated. The only outcome now discernible is a vacancy in the representation of Illinois in the Senate until a new Legislature is chosen by the people.

Word comes from Iowa that the Prohibition Liquor Law, which has been in force since July last, is confessedly not a success. It is enforced in only a few counties; in others it is openly disregarded, with no efforts on the part of the authorities to enforce it; in a few, spasmodic attempts are made to enforce it, but with indifferent success. Throughout the State liquor is sold openly, and in the larger cities and towns the number of saloons has increased rather than diminished. In some cities and towns the law is openly repudiated and a license law is really enforced in its place; but in nearly all parts of the State the liquor traffic is in full blast, with no check of any kind upon it, and no revenue therefrom accruing to the local treasuries. One result is that the municipalities are embarrassed for funds to carry on their governments. The benefits from this state of affairs are so small as to be scarcely perceptible. In a few strongly rural communities, public sentiment is enough opposed to liquor selling to secure the

enforcement of the law, but everywhere else its presence upon the statute-book is a farce, the influence of which is demoralizing and harmful. This is the experience of every State in which a prohibitory law has been enacted.

Professor Felix Adler, in his ethical sermon on Sunday, made a sharp attack on the managers of the House of Refuge for teaching the inmates such Christian dogmas as the divinity of Christ, the power of the Holy Ghost, and the immaculate conception. He holds that although these dogmas may not be sectarian as between Christians, they are sectarian as against Jews, Unitarians, and Agnostics. He declares that there are twenty or thirty Jewish children in the Refuge, who do not accept these doctrines, and yet are compelled to listen to them, and whose parents would protest against them "with might and main," "if they thought their protest would meet with anything but bitter scorn." He admits, however, the inconvenience which would result from allowing each child to have the full religious service of his choice performed for his benefit, and he doubtless foresees the possibility that there would be in that case such frequent changes of faith among them that it would be very difficult to minister adequately to their religious needs. So he proposes that all religious teaching should be dropped, and that the young criminals should instead thereof be "taught noble ambition by reading good biographies," in combination "with a good reading-room, a well-drained playground, and a useful trade." We are afraid, however, this programme also would make a terrible rumpus. Who is to select the biographies? Would they include that of Christ, or Socrates, or Marcus Aurelius, or Spinoza, or Darwin, or Francis of Assisi, or Xavier, or Napoleon, or Luther, or King David; or Leo X., or Voltaire, or William Wilberforce, and if not, why not? They could hardly be confined to American "self-made men," who began by sweeping out a store, and ended by owning several millions of money in "gilt-edged securities."

The decision of the General Term of the Supreme Court that James D. Fish can be examined as a witness concerning his relations with the firm of Grant & Ward may lead to interesting revelations. The public will be greatly surprised if a sharp examination of Mr. Fish does not disclose a good deal of valuable information. He is pretty generally believed to know more about the extraordinary transactions of the firm than any other man except Ward himself, and if he can be induced to tell it, the whole community will be the gainer. If he is an innocent man, the opportunity to clear himself is now presented; but this theory of his relations to the firm is not sustained by the plea of his counsel that he ought not to be asked to testify, lest by so doing he may criminate himself. If we can get his full statement of the firm's operations, and then get Ward's for comparison with it, we shall be in a fair way to find out the true history of this memorable swindle.

News of trouble between Guatemala and Nicaragua growing out of the canal treaty with



the United States comes opportunely to justify the action of the Senate in rejecting it. It is stated in the *Herald's* Washington despatches that "President Barrios (of Guatemala) has practically declared war against Nicaragua, by insisting upon a course on the part of the latter State, with respect to a consolidation of the Central American republics, which Nicaragua cannot accept; and that the understanding at the State Department is that this attempt to stir up trouble with Nicaragua was prompted by the new relations which this nation has offered to assume toward the United States." Here would be a notable chance to initiate a spirited foreign policy, by sending a few regiments of soldiers, specially recruited for the purpose, to Central America to restore order and hold Guatemala in check. It might be supposed that Guatemala would come to order at the word of command from Washington, thus dispensing with the need of military force, just as France allowed herself to be beckoned out of Mexico without compulsory process. Such a conception would be entirely faulty, for the reason that among the Central American republics fighting is the national pastime, involving no more sense of responsibility than a "shindy" at Donnybrook Fair. If Guatemala has any real or fancied wrongs to avenge upon Nicaragua, the fact that the United States stands behind Nicaragua will have no more effect than the fear of punishment in another world. The distinction between theoretical and applied force has the same value in Central America that it has in the Sudan.

The debates in the House of Commons on the vote of censure pretty thoroughly disposed of the charge against the Ministry of having betrayed Gordon or failed him in any reasonable way. Mr. Gladstone showed that when Gordon was first sent out it was simply to report; that the subsequent extensions of his commission were made at his own request; that his understanding that no British expedition was to be sent to support him was complete; that he himself in his despatches from the first strongly denounced any attempt to hold the Sudan as impracticable; that his first suggestion of a permanent policy of any kind was the despatch of Zebehr, the old slave-dealer, to be Governor-General, a proposal which shocked public opinion, and which the Tories themselves condemned from the first; and that Gordon himself gave them every reason to believe that he was not till the end in any real danger in Khartum, as a retreat southward was always open to him. It was shown, too, that the expedition for his relief was started as soon as it became evident that public opinion called for it; and that the Nile route was adopted, after full discussion, not by Lord Wolseley only, but by the best military authorities in England. The Suakim route would have called for between 30,000 and 40,000 camels, and would have been most perilous for any large body of men, owing to the scarcity of water. On the Nile the expedition was carried up more than half way—that is, to Assuan—in Cook's steamers, and was sure of water all along. Finally, what brought about the treachery at Khartum was the near approach of the relieving force, and that would

have precipitated it at any time—in October as readily as in January.

The Marquis of Hartington's speech was mainly directed to showing that the Ministry had in all they had done merely followed the current of public opinion, which changed from day to day, and, as usual, took little count of difficulties. This is to a large extent an excuse, but it is also a confession of shortcoming. What has brought the Ministry into trouble is their not having had from the beginning a distinctly defined policy of their own. When they decided that Egypt must give up the Sudan, they should also have decided to leave the garrisons to their fate, because, as they now acknowledge, there was no possible means of rescuing them. They ought not, therefore, to have allowed themselves to be bullied into making believe that they could be rescued, and sending Gordon out to see how it could be done. Out of this initial error all the subsequent woe has come. What makes it the more deplorable is that the garrisons have since generally gone over to the Mahdi, bag and baggage, and some of them are now fighting under his standard. There were in them a few, perhaps half a dozen, English and American officers, one of whom still holds out at Kassala, and one or two others away in the far south. The fate of these men is doubtless melancholy, but they were military adventurers, who took the risks of service under Egypt in the Sudan with their eyes open; and under any circumstances their lives were not so valuable as to be worth the hundreds already sacrificed, and the thousands still to be sacrificed in an attempt to save them.

Earl Granville has been explaining in the House of Lords that he meant nothing offensive when he said that he plumed himself lately in a debate with the Duke of Richmond on not having taken Bismarck's "advice" to seize Egypt, on the ground that he wished England to reserve her liberty of action under all circumstances. Lord Granville acknowledges that instead of "advice" he ought to have said "opinion." He denied, moreover, that there was anything confidential in either the advice or the opinion, as Prince Bismarck alleged. It was offered in "declarations which were not confidential." Besides this, Lord Granville expressed on behalf of the British Government all sorts of friendly feelings toward both Bismarck and Germany. Great efforts are apparently being made to put a stop to these recriminations and restore the old good understanding, and Bismarck, it is said, is going to play mediator in the Afghan difficulty, and get both the Russian and Afghan outposts to withdraw from the frontier.

It is not probable, however, that anything will now restore confidence in England except the repair and armament of the fortifications of Herat, and the occupation of the place by a very strong garrison. No matter what the Russians may say or promise, the fact has been brought out in a very emphatic form, that the occupation of Merv has exposed Herat to capture by a *coup de main* before the Amir could get any assistance from England, and that if the place were once in the hands of European troops, its recapture would

be very difficult. Sir Henry Rawlinson pointed out ten years ago that "the place would be at the mercy of any European Power holding Merv." It possesses extraordinary natural advantages as a stronghold. The great high roads from Kabul, Teheran, Balkh, Bokhara, Khiva, Meshed, Seistan, and Kandahar all meet in it. It has a splendid climate, and lies in a fertile valley. What is of most importance is that it is surrounded by the greatest earthworks ever seen, the origin of which, like the origin of the place itself, is lost in remote antiquity. The town, which is a mile square, is surrounded by an earthen parapet, if one may call it so, which measures 250 feet at its base, and is 50 or 60 feet high, and surrounded by a wall 9 feet thick at the base and 18 feet high. In addition to this there is a wet ditch 45 feet wide and 15 feet deep. In fact, if the Russians got into Herat, it would be almost impossible to get them out. The Persians tried to capture it in 1838 under a Russian leader, Borowski, but were beaten off by the Afghans under Eldred Pottinger. In 1856, the Persians occupied it, also under Russian inspiration, but were compelled to evacuate it the following year, under pressure of a British invasion of Persia itself, in which the Persian army was ruined in a single engagement. Abdurrahman Khan, who is on very friendly terms with the English, will probably now be subsidized for garrisoning it with a heavy force, and he will be paid for letting the British occupy it. Otherwise there will be no sleep for the unfortunate British taxpayer, for whom the morning news from every quarter of the globe is now so full of terrors.

The Afghans have brought together some force at Penjdeh, but, it is said, under orders to retire as soon as the Russians do. It is rumored that the Russians have agreed to retire, but it will probably be difficult to get them to execute their promise faithfully. They will continue to send troops down to Astrabad, their base on the Caspian, and to Merv, and gradually accumulate an army in these places, and keep the Afghans and British both in a constant state of alarm. Astrabad, by the way, they seized some ten years ago, although they did not deny it was Persian territory, and for a few years continued to promise to evacuate it speedily, but all the while kept fortifying it, and now have no more intention of surrendering it than of surrendering Khiva. The way the Foreign Office at St. Petersburg gets out of these difficulties is by pleading the difficulty of controlling officers in those distant regions, and, in fact, the necessity of leaving them a large share of liberty. The general in command of the force which has been getting up the present trouble is now set down as a "hot-headed Pan Slavist," and has doubtless been disavowed, but he will not be displaced. In the meantime the British are concentrating an army at Quettah, which, if the parties should come to blows just now, would be overwhelmingly superior in numbers and equipment to anything Russia can bring together, and the Ministry at home is evidently fully prepared to use it. This will perhaps have more pacific influence than anything else.

## SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[ WEDNESDAY, March 4, to TUESDAY, March 10, 1885, inclusive.]

## DOMESTIC.

INAUGURATION DAY, at Washington, was one of the most successful in the country's history. It was characterized by great and orderly crowds, splendid weather, a brilliant procession, and an elegant ball in the evening. It is estimated that 100,000 visitors were in Washington, and that 25,000 people took part in the procession. President Cleveland's inaugural address was enthusiastically received, and has been so extensively published that it is useless to summarize it here.

President Cleveland's Cabinet nominations were sent to the Senate on Thursday. They are the same as indicated in last week's Summary. The nominations were all referred to committees. Senator Riddleberger objected to the customary immediate consideration of the nominations of those who were members of the Senate. He made a few remarks, saying in substance that his objection to Mr. Bayard arose from the belief that he was un-American. This violation of "Senatorial courtesy" was severely criticised by both parties. On Thursday the Cabinet were unanimously confirmed by the Senate, Mr. Riddleberger concluding not to wage the fight single-handed.

One of President Cleveland's first acts in connection with his official household was the decision to retain Mr. O. L. Pruden as assistant to Private-Secretary Lamont. Mr. Pruden was appointed by President Grant. His retention is heartily commended by members of both parties.

One of the first official acts of Mr. Manning as Secretary of the Treasury was the appointment of Mr. Charles S. Fairchild, of this city, to be First Assistant Secretary in place of Mr. French. Mr. Fairchild has held no public office since the expiration of his term as Attorney-General of New York, but as President of the State Charities Aid Association he has served the public in a most practical way.

Gen. John C. Black, of Illinois, has accepted the Commissionership of Patents. It was tendered to him in the following letter from Secretary Lamar: "The President thinks your official connection with his Administration will contribute to its success, and desires me to ascertain if you will assume the duties of Commissioner of Patents. I cordially join in his request." General Black is a lawyer, was a Union General, and was the Democratic candidate for Lieutenant-Governor of Illinois in 1872, and the Democratic candidate for the U. S. Senate against Logan in 1879.

President Cleveland's first Cabinet meeting was held on Tuesday. It is understood that the session was devoted almost entirely to the consideration of Federal appointments. It is asserted on good authority that each member of the Cabinet submitted a list of appointments in his Department, held to be essential to the administration of public business under the present régime. The lists, it is understood, included only those offices in which a change was desirable at once, in order that the new Secretaries might discharge the duties of their offices without the least friction or embarrassment.

The last hours of Congress, from midnight to noon on Wednesday, were characterized by some exciting scenes. In the House during the discussion of the conference report on the Sundry Civil Bill, a disorderly scene ensued, in which amendments appropriating several hundred thousand dollars for public buildings were passed with undue haste. Mr. Randall protested, and at length succeeded in getting the bill sent to a final conference. Agreements on the other appropriation bills were speedily effected and an extra session avoided. At 11:30 A. M. Mr. Randall moved to suspend the rules and pass the Senate Grant Retirement Bill. After some filibusters on a contested election case had been satisfied by the seating of Frede-

rick (Dem.), instead of Wilson (Rep., Iowa.), the bill was passed by a vote of 198 to 78 amid tremendous cheers. The House at 12 M. adjourned sine die. In the Senate the River and Harbor Bill was first increased from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000, and then laid on the table by a vote of 28 to 20. Before noon the Grant Retirement Bill, already passed by the Senate, was received from the House, which had just passed it, and was sent to the President, who immediately signed it, and nominated General Grant to be General on the retired list of the army with the full pay of such rank (\$13,500). The Senate confirmed this in open executive session amid thunders of applause on the floor and in the galleries. A recess was then taken to attend the inauguration ceremonies.

In the conference on the Naval Bill in the last hours of Congress the House receded from its appropriation of \$400,000 to complete the wooden vessel *New York*, and from the amendment to build a 6,000-ton cruiser. The Senate gave up the completion of the monitors. Mr. Randall agreed to the construction of two steam cruisers of about 4,000 tons each, one heavy-gun vessel of about 1,600 tons, and one light gun-boat of 750 tons, but on the condition that the Senate recede from the point which placed their design and construction under the provisions of the previous acts constituting the Naval Advisory Board, under whose direction the present cruisers are now building. The design and construction, therefore, are left in the hands of Secretary Whitney.

By order of President Arthur, the Interior Department on March 3 issued patents for the lands in Louisiana granted to aid the construction of the New Orleans and Pacific Railroad. These lands, comprising about 700,000 acres, are what is commonly known as the Backbone Grant, and it was in regard to them that several members of Congress sent a protest to the President a few days ago.

The resolution of Mr. Van Wyck (Rep., Neb.) relative to the issue of these patents was called up in the Senate on Monday. Mr. Van Wyck made an impassioned speech, reflecting severely upon the last Administration. He concluded: "Was it dangerous to trust the new Administration to do justice to the settlers? Was there danger that the rights of the settlers would be recognized, and the public domain protected by the incoming Administration? If so, the new Administration came in none too soon." Mr. Teller replied with a legal and historical statement of the case. He declared that Mr. Van Wyck was a "professional anti-monopolist and champion of the people," that his purpose was to pose before the public and to gain notoriety, and not to aid to do justice, or to redress wrongs.

Objection was made in the Senate on Monday to the swearing in of Mr. Blair, of New Hampshire, reappointed by the Governor. Mr. Saulsbury, of Delaware, made the point that a Governor has no right to make an appointment which will begin a term. Mr. Hoar said that a precedent had already been established in a similar case. He thought it would be an injustice to the State to refuse to have him sworn. Mr. Hoar offered a formal resolution that the oath be administered to the Senator from New Hampshire. Mr. Harris asked unanimous consent that it lie over till Tuesday, and this was granted.

The Governor of Mississippi has appointed Gen. E. C. Walthall to succeed Mr. Lamar as United States Senator. He is a lawyer, and was a Confederate Major-General.

The Illinois Legislature was the scene of a row on Thursday. One hundred and ten Republicans were present, and ninety-eight voted for Logan, the Democrats not voting. A Democratic Chairman then pronounced the joint session adjourned. Protests and blows followed, one member getting a black eye. Finally the houses separated without another ballot.

In the New York Assembly on Monday three amendments intended to weaken the

State Civil Service Law were reported adversely, and all the reports were sustained.

The Assembly at Albany on Wednesday passed the bill which compels horse and certain other railroad companies to prevent their employees from working more than twelve consecutive hours, except in cases of emergency. The bill is limited to roads of ten miles or less in length. On Thursday the Assembly passed the Appropriation Bill with the \$25,000 item for the Adirondack survey included. The Committee on Grievances have voted to report adversely the Woman Suffrage Bill.

Secretary of State Carr has requested S. N. D. North, managing editor of the *Utica Herald*, to superintend the compilation of the New York census.

Adolph Sonnenthal, the distinguished German actor, arrived in this country on Sunday, and appeared at the Thalia Theatre on Monday night.

Mr. T. S. Arthur, author and publisher, died in Philadelphia on Friday. His best-known work is 'Ten Nights in a Bar-room.'

## FOREIGN.

In important despatches from the Russian Government presented to Mr. Gladstone on Thursday, M. de Giers, the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, denies that the Russian occupation of Akrobat, Zulfikar Pass, and Sariyuz was designed to forestall the decisions of the joint commissions on the Russo-Afghan frontier. He says that the advance of the Russians from Puli-Khatum was only ordered after the Afghans, in July last, during the negotiations for the organization of the Commission, had occupied Panjdeh, and in January had occupied Sariyuz, whence the Afghans withdrew on the advance of the Russians. M. de Giers did not maintain the right of Russia to hold the disputed outposts, but his Government refused to withdraw the Russian troops until the Commission presented its report on the frontier question.

Teheran advices on Saturday said that it was reported there that the Amir of Afghanistan was sending troops to protect the Afghan frontier against the Russians. It was also rumored that the British members of the Boundary Commission would soon return to India. Persia, it is said, will remain strictly neutral in any complications that may arise between England and Russia.

It was announced in London on Sunday that orders had been sent to Sir Peter Lumsden, the British Special Commissioner on the Afghan frontier question, to direct the Afghans to evacuate Panjdeh on the withdrawal of the Russian forces from Akrobat. Baron de Staal, the Russian Ambassador, has, it is said, promised that the Russian troops shall retire. Nevertheless, the London *Times* on Monday said: "Although there is a possible hope of a peaceful solution, the condition of affairs is still critical. The British Government's demands that the Russians retire from the Afghan frontier, whether put in the form of an ultimatum or not, are final. The choice of peace or war lies in the hands of the Russian statesmen."

In a leading article on Monday, the London *Times* urged England to occupy and fortify Herat at once, and to check the Russian advance toward the interior of Afghanistan at any cost. It said that if Russia wished to fight, England was not only ready but willing, and Russia had only to say the word.

At a late hour on Tuesday the British Government had not received a reply from Russia to their latest overtures for a settlement of the Afghan question. The *Pull Mall Gazette* said it believed in the correctness of the news received on Monday evening, to the effect that the Russians had advanced their outposts in Zulfikar Pass further south, instead of withdrawing them north, as requested by England. The *Gazette* states that there can be no doubt that grave fears are entertained of a collision between the Russian and Afghan troops.



The total of the enrolled volunteers in Great Britain at the present time is announced as 215,000 men, the greatest number yet attained.

Dr. Blowitz, the London *Times's* correspondent at Paris, on Thursday wrote a strong letter attacking Prince Bismarck for indirection in his dealings with the British Foreign Office concerning the South Pacific Islands. In the Blue Book on this subject issued by the British Government on February 25th there is given a conversation which occurred early in February between Prince Bismarck and Sir Edward Malet, British Ambassador at Berlin. During this the German Chancellor read a despatch which he had sent to Count Münster, German Ambassador to London, on the 5th of the preceding May, and which purported to convey to England Bismarck's idea of how Great Britain could assist Germany in her colonization schemes, and his promise to reciprocate by helping English interests nearer home. The despatch as read urged England to fall in with the suggestions made, because in the event of refusal Germany would be compelled to ask France to perform the offices declined by England. The Chancellor told Sir Edward Malet that as Count Münster seemed to make no progress, it was feared in Berlin that he had not stated the points of the despatch with sufficient strength and precision, so Count Herbert Bismarck was sent to London to assure the success of the desired negotiations.

Dr. Blowitz accuses Bismarck of direct falsehood in these statements. He refers to the fact that Bismarck read the original despatch to Sir Edward Malet in Berlin as a proof that he really never sent it to London. Bismarck, Dr. Blowitz says, proceeded as if this despatch had been sent to London to form the basis of an alliance between England and Germany concerning colonial annexations; as if its rejection by England had been formally and deliberately made; as if this rejection were an endorsement by England of a German-French alliance and gave Germany certain liberty in the South Pacific; and then, when asked for explanations about his encroachments on British possessions, produced as his warrant the original of the very despatch. This production, Dr. Blowitz avers, was made nine months after the date of the despatch, and just when it suited Bismarck's purpose.

Earl Granville, Minister of Foreign Affairs, made a long speech in the British House of Lords on Friday, in explanation of the Bismarck controversy. He said that Bismarck had misunderstood his previous retort to the Duke of Richmond. He (Granville) did not mean that Bismarck had advised England to take Egypt; nor did he refer to private and friendly communications from Bismarck, but to later declarations, not confidential, expressing Germany's hope that England would represent Europe's interests in Egypt. "All my efforts," said Lord Granville, "will be exerted in favor of the conciliatory policy which Prince Bismarck has sketched out." The German Chancellor, he said, must have misunderstood him, for England, beyond any other nation, was gratified at Germany's greatness, and would spare no efforts to retain the friendship now existing between the two Governments. The German papers consider this an apology on England's part.

A letter from Lord Granville was read in the House of Commons on Monday night on the German diplomatic dispute. He says he has "good reason to hope that this friction is a thing of the past." He denies that he ever received Prince Bismarck's despatch of May 5, which, he says, was evidently private and intended for Count von Münster's guidance in dealing with the general political situation. The reading of Earl Granville's letter left a bad impression, as it was considered an inadequate exposition of his denial of the receipt of Prince Bismarck's despatch, and conveyed a hint that Count Herbert Bismarck, at that time Secretary of the German Embassy, had suppressed the communication. Neverthe-

less it was announced from Berlin on Tuesday that the Emperor William had formally congratulated Prince Bismarck on the success of Count Herbert Bismarck's mission to England, and that Bismarck would soon declare in the Reichstag that a complete reconciliation with England had been effected. It having been reported that the British flag at Victoria colony in West Africa had been hauled down and the German colors substituted, Germany officially informed the British Government on Tuesday that she disavowed such action, and would make necessary reparation if the report proved true.

The Berlin *North German Gazette* (Bismarck's organ) published on Wednesday a caustic criticism of the action of the British Government in publishing the private conversations of Prince Bismarck with Sir Edward Malet, the British Ambassador. It pronounces the printing in the Blue Book on the South African question of the personal remarks made by the German Chancellor to Sir Edward Malet "a striking and regrettable case of indiscretion." "Such conduct," continues the *Gazette*, "must put a stop to all confidential exchange of news between the statesmen of the two governments. If the object of these publications has been to make France distrust Germany, it has failed, but its malevolence remains inexplicable."

Advices from Cameroons, under date of January 19, say the situation there is still very much unsettled. Hickorytown, Lockpriso, Fostown, Moskoko, and Belltown have been burned to the ground, and the natives have sought refuge in the bush. King Bell is afraid to return, although the Germans have tried to induce him to rebuild Belltown. The London *Daily News* says that the territory seized by Germany in eastern Africa is more than twice the size of Prussia. It surrounds Zanzibar, and the intention seems to be to make the Sultan of Zanzibar dependent upon Germany rather than England.

In the House of Commons on Monday night the Marquis of Hartington, in moving a vote of 3,000 additional men for the army, explained that the cost of the autumn expedition to Khartum would be included in the expenses of the next financial year, and would require another credit. He said that General Graham's forces would disperse the rebels, occupy Osman Digna's positions, and prevent the rebels from again concentrating. General Graham would then open the route to Berber as far as possible. If he reached Berber in time, he would coöperate with General Wolsley in his advance on Khartum. The Suakim Railway, the Marquis of Hartington said, would be purely a military structure, but would doubtless eventually lead to the establishment of a permanent railway.

In the House of Commons on Thursday night the Marquis of Hartington said the Government thought that any advance by General Graham from Suakim for the relief of the garrison at Kassala was impossible. He said the Government was unprepared to state the number of additional men they intended to enroll in the army. A motion to grant £330,000 for extra naval expenses was agreed to.

The garrison of Kassala has had another battle with the Haddendowahs, and been completely defeated. The Emir writes that unless speedily relieved the garrison will succumb to famine.

General Wolsley, on Friday, in an address to his troops at Korti, said: "The Queen desires me to express her admiration of your courage and self-devotion. To have commanded such men is to me a source of the highest pride. No greater honor can be in store for you than that I look forward to, of leading you, please God, in to Khartum before the year is out. On the river and in the desert you have borne hardships and privations uncomplainingly. In action you have been uniformly victorious. You have done all that men could do to save a comrade, but Khar-

tum fell through treachery two days before it could be reached. A period of comparative inaction is now expected. The army is not yet formed with a view to the siege of Khartum. We must content ourselves during this period and prepare for the autumn advance. You will, I know, face the heat and the work that remains for you to do with the same courage and endurance which you have displayed hitherto."

During the summer the main body of the British troops will remain in camp at Korti, with headquarters at Dongola. The Mudir of Dongola's army will remain at Meraweh with General Buller's contingent. Two movable columns under Generals Dornier and Brackenbury will be stationed between Debbeh and Handak in constant readiness for action.

The last convoy of the wounded from Gakdul has arrived at Korti. General Wolsley's headquarters will soon be moved to Dongola. The Mahdi will, it is said, soon remove his camp from Umderman to Metemneh or Shendy.

The rear guard of General Sir Redvers Buller's troops arrived at Korti on Monday in a terribly fatigued condition. General Brackenbury arrived at Korti on Monday.

The Mahdi, fearing treachery, has gone to Abbas Island, 130 miles above Khartum. There is great dissension and famine among the rebels, and a rising against the Mahdi's uncle in Kordofan was announced on Tuesday.

The *Pull Mall Gazette* urges that the best testimonial possible to make for General Gordon would be the formation of a "Gordon Free State," upon the plan of the Congo Free State, formed by the International African Association, the new State to embrace the Nile country, and its object to be the holding of that waterway on behalf of trade and civilization.

It is reported that after the recent division on the vote of censure, Queen Victoria advised the resignation of Mr. Gladstone and a reconstruction of the Ministry on the basis of a thorough and consistent foreign policy. Mr. Gladstone declined to resign, maintaining that he held power under a commission from the people.

Edmund Yates, editor of the London *World*, was released from jail on Tuesday on account of ill-health.

The French Chamber of Deputies on Thursday, by a vote of 264 to 150, finally passed the bill raising the duties on cereals.

General Brière Delisle, the French commander in Tonquin, telegraphed on Sunday that he had relieved the beleaguered French garrison at Tuyenquan. He said: "We arrived on March 3 at Tuyenquan. The Black Flags and the Yunnan army had occupied the pass, the sides of which were inaccessible, and had built forts with three lines of trenches before Duoc. The fighting was severe. Our troops behaved more admirably than ever. The enemy raised the siege of Tuyenquan last evening, the French garrison having fought eighteen days. This siege should be counted among the most brilliant pages of our history. The gunboat *Mitrailleuse* actively assisted in the defence of Tuyenquan. General Négrier's column has been pushed rapidly northward since the capture of Langson. He has now destroyed the line of forts which guarded the Chinese frontier, and has blown up the fortifications which have been known as the gate of China. The magazines, containing large quantities of ammunition, have also been destroyed." The French attacking party's loss at Tuyenquan was 66 killed and 133 wounded; the garrison lost 50 killed and 33 wounded during seven assaults on the town by Chinese troops.

The French commander in Anam has learned that Chinese mandarins are intriguing with the Anam Court with a view to secure combined action between the Anamese and the Chinese for the overthrow of the French authority.

## THE CABINET.

It is obvious from a glance at President Cleveland's Cabinet that we should have to go a long way back in the history of the Government to find one of which the average in both ability and character was higher, and it is by the average that Cabinets have, after all, to be judged. Seven such places cannot be filled in any country in the world with men of the first order of capacity, even if seven such men were easily found. All administrative work which has to be done in subordination to another will, or in consultation with other minds—which depends, in short, in any degree for its success on powers of persuasion, or on insight into character—calls for other things besides capacity. It needs a great deal of patience, of good temper, of judgment of men, and of experience of affairs, which persons of the highest capacity do not always possess. Consequently, Cabinets are usually to the eye of the outer world a mixture of materials of very unequal quality. Some of our best Presidents have made them up on the chemical plan of putting in alkalis to neutralize acids—that is, putting in men whom the rest of the world knew to be good, for the purpose of offsetting men whom the President himself knew to be bad.

It is the custom of the American public, however, to be very indulgent about the composition of a Cabinet at the outset of an Administration. It recognizes the fact that the Cabinet has to be, after all, a collection of agents to do important work, as well as a collection of political notables, and that in the choice of these agents a President must be allowed great freedom, and that a large number of the reasons, sometimes some of the best ones which govern this choice, must needs be unknown to the public. The first judgment on a Cabinet, therefore, unless there are notoriously bad appointments in it, must take it as a whole rather than in detail. People's first thought is rather how it will work as a unit than how its different members will manage their separate departments. In other words, the first impulse is to examine it as a sign of the President's policy and aims, of the kind of men with whom he likes to surround himself.

Looked at in this way, we are sure there will be general agreement that President Cleveland's average is very high. The three men whom he has taken from the South, Messrs. Bayard, Lamar, and Garland, cannot be surpassed, within the field of possible choice, for either character or capacity. The sole objection any one can make to them is that they are Southerners, but this objection will only come from that very small and rapidly diminishing body of persons who hold that the Government ought to be conducted on the theory that twelve of the States do not belong to the Union; that there are two grades of American citizens, the Northern and Southern; and that the latter should be allowed to participate in the management of national affairs only on condition that it always votes with the other. This theory has, however, been rejected at the polls by the majority of the American people. Even if President Cleveland had not so largely owed his election to the South, it would have been his sol-

emn duty to save that greatest of all results of the war—the restoration of the Union—by treating the leading men of the South as American statesmen in the fullest and best sense of the term, and entitled to a fair share in all the honors and rewards which the triumph of their party may have won. Happily he has been enabled to do this, in the present case, by putting three men in his Cabinet who, in talents and integrity, would be a credit to any part of the country.

The work of selection at the North has been more difficult. Democrats have in this part of the world been excluded for twenty-five years from all share in the administration of national affairs—a circumstance which has operated in a very marked way either to discourage political capacity in the party, or to prevent its making itself conspicuous. Moreover, many of the older men of the party, who were prominent in public life when the war broke out, have been either discredited by their opposition to the war, or by their abandonment of the old doctrines of the party in dealing with the currency and the national credit after the war. There are but very few of these whose record has not been dimmed in one of these ways, and they are mostly too old to feel the importance of the issues which have been coming to the front during the last ten years. President Cleveland, who is himself the choice of the younger men of the party, had, in putting Northerners into his Cabinet, therefore, almost inevitably to select men but little known in the national arena, and known better for political activity than for administrative experience. But there is no test known to us of fitness for a Cabinet, except political conspicuousness, which Judge Endicott and Colonel Vilas will not bear. The President could not take as his advisers or agents two fitter representatives—one of what is best in New England, and the other what is best in the rising communities of the Northwest—than these two gentlemen. The facts of their biography, indeed, make all comment on their fitness unnecessary.

Mr. Manning and Mr. Whitney, from this State, are in fact the only selections which can call forth adverse criticism. The objections to them are obvious, and have found utterance in many quarters, and have been fully felt by us since they were first talked of. These gentlemen are both close personal friends of the new President, and were both largely instrumental in securing his nomination. It may be said, therefore, and will be said, that their offices are the rewards of their zeal at the Convention and during the canvass. Moreover, Mr. Manning is little known outside this State, except as a very able political manager, and people will ask and do ask wherein consists his fitness for the Treasury, the department of all which needs most rigid care from an Administration pledged to civil-service reform, and that through which any catastrophe in the financial situation would bring most discredit on the President. Mr. Whitney is also open to the objection that he is but little known outside the State, and that he has had no administrative or political experience in the national arena.

We feel the force of these objections as much as any one, but they are, it is to be observed, presumptive rather than positive. They are well calculated to excite prejudice

and disappointment. They are not, however, a proper basis for distrust or hostility. There is nothing in them to forbid the hope that these gentlemen will make good administrators and sincere reformers. Of their capacity for anything they undertake we hear no question. Moreover, our confidence in Mr. Cleveland is mainly in his integrity of purpose. To suppose that he had put into the Treasury and the Navy Departments two persons on whom he did not believe he could count for absolute support of the principles of administration to which he stands pledged, would be to suppose him wholly unfit for his place. This, however, is a conclusion which even an enemy, if honest, would not allow himself to reach sooner than two years hence. We, for our part, prefer to believe that he has in all his appointments acted on better knowledge than we possess, and with the confident and well-founded expectation of making his Administration what his supporters at the polls looked for at his hands.

## SIGNS OF PROGRESS.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND may be said to have reached the really critical period in his Administration, as he has now to deal with the filling of the minor offices, a work full of traps and pitfalls for unwary feet. The Washington hotels are crowded with office-seekers, who either have never heard of civil-service reform, or who think the President's letter meant no more than the party platforms usually mean, and are bent on ignoring it. The difficulty which all Presidents hitherto have had in dealing with this crisis, has been the not unnatural difficulty of realizing what an infinitesimally small portion of the American people these office-seekers are, and how unimportant on the whole their claims and opinions are. When the rooms of the White House are packed with a few hundred of them, each telling of the awful consequences to the party of any mistake in the distribution of the spoils in his "deestreet," the President requires to be a man of strong nerves and vivid imagination to see beyond them the American people, toiling in field, and factory, and store, without any desire about offices except that they should be filled by competent men, and full of ridicule for the office-seeking trade and its troubles and disappointments. It is in fact only the Presidents who play the spoils game who need to treat the spoils men seriously. The latter cannot damage one who declares, in their own slang, that he is "out of it."

Great as is the rush for office, however, it is neither so great nor so eager as it was four years ago. If any one will take the trouble to turn back to the files of the daily newspapers for the four months of Garfield's Administration, he will find them filled with accounts of the doings of the crowds of office-seekers at Washington. He will read that they swarmed upon the President so persistently that he was unable to attend to his public duties, and that their constant appeals for "places" were seriously undermining his health; that, next to the President, Mr. Secretary Blaine was the greatest sufferer, because of his thousands of personal friends, all of whom had somehow come to understand that he was to



"give them something" when he came into power; that every member of the Cabinet was in a state of siege which made life for him a burden and the administration of the public business an impossibility. This condition of affairs was not limited by the first few weeks of Garfield's Administration, but grew worse and worse with each subsequent week, until it culminated in his murder by a disappointed office-seeker, whose weak head had been turned by the angry ravings of other disappointed office-seekers.

There is nothing so fierce as this struggle of 1881 in progress at Washington now. The office-seeker is there in force, and he is making a nuisance of himself as usual, but the President and the Secretary of State are not so badly persecuted as is the Postmaster-General. The solid South, which was expected to come to Washington in a body, is scarcely represented there at all. The chief rush is for the post-offices of the North and West, and this is likely to be over within a short time. The impression is getting abroad among all applicants for offices that the President "has gone back on them," and is going to keep his word about civil-service reform; that he is not in a hurry about making appointments, and that a week's sojourn in Washington may end in nothing but failure and the payment of a board bill. A struggle for office under these conditions is certain to have only one result—the gradual disappearance of the besiegers.

President Cleveland has only to be faithful to his professions in order to win. He has a great advantage over his predecessors in the shield which the Civil-Service Law gives him. So long as he stands inflexibly by that he is safe. No impartial observer, looking back now at Garfield's sad experience, can fail to see that every concession which he made to the office-seeking class added to his difficulties. Though there was no civil-service law in force when he came into office, he was a professed friend of civil-service reform, was pledged to carry it forward in his Administration, and had committed himself in his inaugural address in favor of a fixed tenure in office as a "protection against the waste of time and obstruction to the public business caused by the inordinate pressure for place." Yet his first important appointments were not such as to encourage civil-service reformers or to discourage the place-hunters. On March 23, while the pressure upon his Administration was as furious as it had been at the very outset of his term, he sent to the Senate a batch of fifteen important nominations, among which were the following: For Collector of the Port of New York, William H. Robertson; for Solicitor-General, William E. Chandler; for Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Thomas M. Nichol. In order to create a "place" for Mr. Robertson, General Merritt, whose term as Collector had not expired, was made Consul-General in London, and General Badeau, who was Consul-General in London, was made *Chargé d'Affaires* at Denmark. The whole country recognized in these appointments an abandonment of the civil-service-reform principle. One of them led to the most bitter factional quarrel in the history of the country, which did not end even in the death of the President himself. Another, that of Chandler, was rejected by the

Senate. Their effect upon the office-seekers was unmistakable. They added to the heat of the struggle for place, and to the bitterness of the contending factions within the party itself. The appointment, about the same time, of Stanley Matthews to the Supreme Bench, after his appointment by President Hayes had been rejected, had a similar effect. Subsequently, also, a faithful and most efficient Commissioner of Pensions was removed to make a "place" for Colonel Dudley, who had been useful in "carrying Indiana"; and wholesale changes, based upon a similar recognition of value received, were made in the consular service. Every additional concession added fuel to the flame, and the host of office-seekers was almost as great three months after the inauguration as it was during the first month.

There is a lesson in this experience for President Cleveland and his advisers, and we are confident that it is scarcely necessary to call their attention to it. The short interviews which have been published with all the members of the Cabinet show them to be, without exception, cordially in sympathy with the President in his civil-service-reform attitude. Fortunately, we are in no doubt about his ability or his inclination to keep his pledges. His course as Mayor and Governor is a sufficient evidence of both. The hungry crowd in Washington are a very small part of the President's political party, and, as we have said, a still smaller part of the American people. They will find this out very soon and go home, for every slow-coming appointment will add, we are firmly convinced, to their disappointment.

#### THE NEW BI-METALLIC MOVEMENT.

THE recent stirrings of the bi-metallists in France and Germany have undoubtedly been prompted and pushed by Prince Bismarck. The success which has attended his reactionary policy in economical as well as political affairs has apparently emboldened him to take another step backward. That he has been a bi-metallist in principle from the beginning was made tolerably plain by the indiscretion of Mr. William D. Kelley, who published a private conversation which he had with Bismarck at Berlin on the subject in the summer of 1879. In this conversation the latter avowed himself a believer in the double standard, and indulged in some contemptuous remarks upon his own Finance Minister, which caused considerable irritation in official circles in Berlin. By way of appeasing this irritation and rebuking Mr. Kelley for his ill-timed zeal, Prince Bismarck refused to see the American bi-metallist Commissioner, Mr. George Walker, who had been sent abroad the same year by President Hayes to pave the way for a new International Monetary Conference; and when this Conference assembled two years later, the German delegates were instructed to say that they could not change their monetary system. None the less was it evident that Bismarck was personally a bi-metallist. The conversation with Kelley did take place. It was correctly reported. Its significance is only now becoming apparent. Bismarck is as much a reactionist in respect of money as he is

in regard to corn-laws. The late movement for bi-metallism in the Reichstag was evidently inspired by the Chancellor, and, although decisively voted down, it will probably be heard of again. The project contemplated the coining of "full-valued silver money" under an international agreement. This would imply a silver dollar of about 490 grains, and a ratio of about  $18\frac{1}{2}$  to 1, in place of  $412\frac{1}{2}$  grains and a ratio of 16 to 1, and would of course not be acceptable to the Bland faction in this country, although it might serve as a step-ladder to bring them into political harmony with President Cleveland.

If the project of a new International Conference under Bismarckian auspices shall eventually ripen, the United States will, of course, take part in it, but antecedently to such participation Congress must pass a law authorizing the President to appoint Commissioners and appropriating money for the expense of the negotiation. The Finance Committee's bill which was pending in the Senate at the adjournment of the recent session contained a provision of this kind, accompanied by a condition that, in the event of failure to reach an international agreement by the 1st of August, 1886, the coining of silver by the United States mint should definitively cease. The bill having expired, the subject cannot be resumed until the new Congress shall assemble, at which time there is good reason to believe that a majority of both houses will be in favor of suspending the coining at once, and resuming, if at all, only after an international agreement shall have been reached.

The prospects of such an agreement are, as dim and distant now as they ever were, notwithstanding Bismarck's adhesion to the principle of bi-metallism. The German Chancellor has been able to control European politics by virtue of the heaviest battalions. He has been able to enforce the protective policy by appealing to the selfishness of the land-owners. But it lies not in his power to control the nature of things, nor is it by any means evident that he can persuade the commercial classes of Germany to join in such a movement. Bi-metallism is monetary Quixotism. The Conferences of 1878 and 1881 demonstrated effectually that there was no place to begin free coinage on the ratio of  $15\frac{1}{2}$ , since the silver of Asia would rush to Europe to be exchanged for gold. The next Conference, if it is held, will demonstrate the impossibility of agreement upon any other ratio. Nevertheless, if Germany shall see fit to call it, the fitting course for this country to pursue will be to suspend silver coinage before and not after the Conference meets, since if the ratio to be adopted is the market value of silver or any other ratio different from our own, it will be necessary to recoin all of our own dollars—an undertaking which will give full employment to our mints for many years to come.

#### ENGLAND: A POLITICAL CRISIS.

LONDON, February 21.

SINCE the days of the Indian mutiny in 1857, England has had no period of excitement and anxiety comparable to that of the last fortnight. The fall of Khartum, just at the moment when

the relief of its gallant defender seemed all but achieved, smote public opinion like a thunderbolt, scattering all our plans, revealing dangers hitherto unheeded, opening up a long vista of efforts and sacrifices. Nearly every following day has brought news of some fresh encounter or military movement, and although the behavior of both generals and soldiers has been all that could have been wished, the small number of our forces, and their positions dispersed along the Nile and in the desert, have caused lively apprehensions for their safety. The accounts of unexampled activity in the departments charged with military preparations, the departure of troops for the Red Sea, the rumors current as to the intentions of the Government and the designs of foreign Powers—above all, the arrival almost every hour of some fresh piece of intelligence from the seat of war, for which the newspapers issue a special edition, so that the streets echo all the afternoon and far into the night with the shrill cries of the news-venders—have brought England, and especially London, into a state of tension such as no one recollects. Single days of equal excitement there have been before, as when it was supposed, in 1878, that we were on the eve of a war with Russia, or on that memorable Sunday when the news of the Phoenix Park murders shocked all classes alike; but rarely or never so long a strain of eagerness and disquiet.

The first strong sentiment was, of course, of grief at the death of Gordon, which from the first was scarcely doubtful—a grief not unmingled with shame and self-reproach. His character had been so striking, his conduct so heroic, that the idea that too little should have been done for such a man was doubly painful. The next was that of anxiety as to the proper course to be taken in the changed position of affairs. As the expedition had been undertaken solely for the sake of rescuing General Gordon and his companions, his and their death seemed to leave it without any further purpose. The Government had all along declared in the strongest terms their objections to any permanent occupation of Khartum, or any other part of the interior of Sudan, and had notoriously abstained from making a railroad from Suakim to Berber last spring, after their battles with Osman Digna near the Red Sea coast, because they conceived that its construction would compel them to remain there and become responsible for the administration of the country. Their position even in Egypt proper is now apparently less assured than it then was, while the difficulty of reducing the Sudan to order is obviously far greater, because the Mahdi is flushed with victory and surrounded by larger forces. Why, then, it was asked, continue the war against him? Why attempt a task which was deliberately declined when it was easier a year ago?

On the other hand, the sense of grief at Gordon's death, the sense of self-reproach at the failure of our attempts to reach him, the apparent ignominy of turning round and marching back after having spent so much money and sacrificed so many lives in vain, urged some further action against those who had barred our path and killed Gordon. The mere impulse of revenge might have been resisted, because as soon as revenge was felt to be the motive, most consciences condemned it as unworthy or insufficient. But other reasons presented themselves. In the first place, it seemed improbable that our troops could be withdrawn without further fighting, and fighting of a serious nature. They are a long way up from the frontiers of Egypt, and, as the Nile is now falling rapidly, their return by boats will during the next few months be more difficult than their advance was. Possibly the only way of getting them out may be to march across the desert from Berber to Suakim; but

Berber is held by the enemy, and would have to be taken in order to open this route. It is, moreover, all but certain that the Mahdi would move forward and attack the British troops on their retreat, while the mere fact that they were retreating would cause the tribes along the line of march to add their strength to his. As his claims are not limited to the Sudan, but to the leadership of Mohammedans generally, he may be expected to attack Egypt, and would have to be fought there if he is not fought sooner. These considerations, with the fear that our retirement would be taken all over the East, in Asia, as well as in Africa, to import our defeat and his victory, and thus give a shock to the security of British power both in Egypt and India, led a large part of the public, irrespective of party, to declare for a forward movement and the continuance of the war against the Mahdi. The Government, whether convinced by such reasonings, as may fairly be believed, or holding that the stream of popular sentiment in this direction ought not to be resisted, promptly announced their intention to attack the Mahdi, recapture Khartum, and break his power. They forthwith proceeded to give effect to this resolution by despatching to Suakim not only a strong force designed to move inland thence, but also by sending out the materials for the construction of a railway from that port to Berber. They have, however, so far, abstained from declaring whether they will ultimately hold Khartum and govern the Eastern Sudan or not, although indicating a disposition not to do so, but to revert, once the Mahdi's power has been broken, to their former policy of withdrawing to Egypt proper and the Red Sea coast.

Some more explicit declaration will doubtless have been made by them before these lines reach you. My present object is to indicate how opinion now stands. It is perplexed and divided to a degree rarely seen even in this country, where on questions of foreign policy it is usually as ill-informed and indefinite as it is clear and decided on domestic matters. Four views may be distinguished. There is, firstly, that of those who hold it our duty (and indeed a necessity for the safety of Egypt, the suppression of the slave-trade, and the vindication of our own strength) not only to retake Khartum, but to hold it, and to set up some stable government in the Sudan, placing garrisons in the more important posts. This is the view which finds favor with the Tory party and with a section of the Liberals, who ask what use there would be in going to Khartum if we are forthwith to abandon it. There is, secondly, the view, understood to be held by the Ministry, that although the Mahdi's power must be overthrown, and our armies kept in the country for ten or twelve months at least to effect that object, the Sudan ought to be subsequently evacuated. Then there is a third view, that the only objects we have to consider are the safe withdrawal of our troops and the protection of the Egyptian frontier, and that it is therefore desirable to avoid advancing against the Mahdi, unless military reasons should prove that only by attacking and defeating him can our retreat be secured. This view, which is pretty largely held among the Liberals, accentuates the importance of taking no step (such as the capture of Khartum or making of the railway to Berber) which can lead to ultimate annexation, and therefore disapproves the proposed action of the Government, while it recognizes the necessity of leaving to the generals on the spot a discretion as to the military movements necessary to facilitate withdrawal and protect Egypt. Lastly, there is the position of the more pronounced Radicals, which condemns altogether the prolongation of the war, and considers that there is nothing to be done but to

evacuate the Sudan at the earliest possible moment. It is a view differing from that last described in insisting more strongly that immediate retirement is our main duty, and that military considerations must give way to this political necessity. That the line between these two views, and between them and that understood to be held by the Government, is somewhat ill-defined, shows how complicated and obscure the matter is, and explains how hard men find it to have a positive opinion. There can be little doubt that the general feeling among Ministerialists is to get rid of the war and get out of the Sudan; but people differ widely in their estimate of the extent to which military reasons should be allowed to determine the how and the when.

It need hardly be said that the effect of the catastrophe at Khartum, and the prospect of a long war with heavy expenditure, have gravely shaken the Ministry, to whose want of foresight, promptitude, and firmness many people on their own side of politics, as well as the whole Opposition, charge the misfortunes that have befallen. How far such blame is deserved I need not discuss; but it is noticeable that hardly any newspaper or public speaker does more in the way of defending the Cabinet than pointing out the extreme difficulty of the whole question, and the fact that the Opposition leaders, having indicated no counter policy during the last two years, would have succeeded no better, or perhaps, if their performances in 1876-80 are considered, even worse. It is commonly supposed that the Cabinet has been perplexed by internal differences of opinion; that Mr. Gladstone has been throughout opposed to any assumptions of responsibility in the Sudan, to the sending out of General Gordon, and to the despatch of the present expedition, while some of his colleagues have been able to guide the collective Ministerial policy to the steps actually taken, by insisting on the necessity of satisfying the popular demand for active measures.

Some day these things will become known; in the meantime the Government has been so seriously shaken that it would probably fall but for the peculiar circumstances in which Parliament finds itself. The Redistribution Bill has to be carried through this session, and a general election held within a few months, by next January at latest. Hence the Opposition have little wish to come into office until a general election shows whether they can hope to retain it; and the condition of domestic business in Parliament, as well as of foreign affairs, makes a change of Government undesirable and an immediate general election almost impossible. It is, therefore, understood that the Tory chiefs do not particularly wish to take office. But as they feel bound to condemn the conduct of the Government, Sir Stafford Northcote has given notice of a vote of censure, which will be forthwith debated in the House of Commons, and doubtless decided before this letter reaches you. As its terms indicate a policy opposed to that retirement from the Sudan which the Radicals advocate, it is now supposed in London that they will adhere to Mr. Gladstone, and that the resolution of censure will not be carried, although some of the usual supporters of the Ministry may indicate their displeasure by abstention from voting. Meantime, the anxiety regarding the forces in the field has hardly diminished, and the political situation at home may be at any moment changed by news from the front. Y.

#### THE BRITISH WAR SPIRIT AND ITS EFFECTS UPON CHARACTER.

DUBLIN, February 14, 1885.

THE ever-extending influence of the British Empire and British prestige are as wonderful as they are undeniable, and are unequalled in the history



of the world. We may not all admire or be able to share in any feelings of pride regarding them, but we cannot shut our eyes to facts. The formation of the Roman Empire by the addition of territory after territory round a small centre was nothing compared with a remote island extending its dominion to all parts of the world—replacing the power of older rivals, more populous and in some respects stronger than herself. Not the least remarkable features of the phenomenon are the completeness and precision with which England accomplishes her annexations and the extensions of her power, no doubt mainly through the appliances which modern science has placed at her disposal. Such an empire could not be attained and sustained without high average brain power and individual reliability, essentially the outcome of Protestantism, which favors the development of individual self-reliance and character. While believing that, upon the whole, war and its attendant horrors are tending to decrease, I doubt whether of late years the war spirit has at all lessened in the minds of the British people. It may be interesting to surmise the causes.

Although Disraeli's proclamation of the Queen as Empress was smiled at by so many of her subjects, the idea of British empire has latterly taken possession of the public mind in Great Britain as it never did before. "The empire" is now spoken of where the term "kingdom," or kingdoms, was formerly used. And with the new conception has come a strengthened, at least more openly expressed, belief, that any means would be justifiable for the maintenance of the power and prestige of that empire. This spirit is patent not only among the "Arrys" and "Jingoes," but among the highest and most cultivated class of spiritual teachers in literature and the pulpit. This spirit may yet lead to any depths of cruelty and despotism toward other peoples where it is not curbed—as it was in our late dealings with you and other nations by respect, not unmixed perhaps with fear, and in our dealings with the Boers by a common religion and historical sympathies. The teachings of the New Testament are gossamer threads with the British Lion when what he considers his rights or his honor is concerned.

In all these considerations I must except the feeling of three-fourths of the Irish people at home and abroad, who, not from a sense of right and wrong, or because they have a higher political conscience regarding the outside world than the masses of their fellow-subjects, but for reasons which need not be here enumerated, are always upon the side of any nation, tribe, or people with which "England" is at war.

The establishment and maintenance of the volunteers has done much to increase the war spirit. Amateurs naturally learn to appreciate professionals more highly, and to admire in them feats which it would be their own ambition to emulate. The laying open of the immense civil service of the empire to all classes has permeated all classes with a taste for the details of government and a consciousness of the sweets of office, such as never existed when the aristocracy had the good things to themselves. Then, again, the dissenters and radicals have been brought into sympathy with the Government by the entrance into the Cabinet of such men as John Bright, Chamberlain, and Sir Charles Dilke. People are likely to make allowance for, if not to endorse, the measures of their friends. Parnell's portrait is not likely to be found in an Irish cabin after one of the boys has passed an examination for the police. On the whole, we do not hear the same expression of consideration for heathen opponents that was customary even in the days of the Indian mutiny or the bombardment of Kagoshima. There is no whisper now of

a desire to surrender Gibraltar to Spain, such as at one period was occasionally heard in certain doctrinal circles. It is to be doubted whether a protectorate over the Ionian Islands would now be abandoned. Formerly, tolerably steady and consistent protests on the side of humanity and peace might be expected at least from the Society of Friends. But now that Friends are swarming into the professions and into the magistracy, that they wear Lord Mayor's robes, and attend levees in the scarlet costumes of Deputy Lieutenants, with a sword by the side, the rank and file of this Society are as little inclined to "embarrass the Government" as other men.

Latterly the expenses of our little wars have been raised entirely by increases of a penny or a few pence in the income tax, which no one pays who has not an income of £150 a year, and upon which a considerable allowance is made to all whose incomes are under £400. The cost, therefore, does not apparently press upon the artisans or poorer classes, who in many districts are directly gainers by the expenditure on war material and preparations. One of the most striking phenomena of the empire is the maintenance of the army by voluntary enlistment. Foreign wars would wear a very different complexion if they had to be fought with men taken by force from the plough or the loom. The same spirit which induces a young man to enlist makes him long for the excitement and chances of war. As to the upper classes, the army is even still looked to as pre-eminently the field for the display of spirit and gallantry, with which they are so largely endowed, and as a provision for younger sons. "And then we must hope there will be some little war," was remarked to a friend of mine by a widowed mother, belonging to the aristocracy, when, turning over a photographic album, she showed the portraits of her son as a lad, as a public-school boy, and as a collegian, and told how he was about entering the army.

The illustrated papers and the letters of war correspondents must play no inconsiderable part in fostering a warlike spirit and the idea of empire. Formerly war seemed in the main distant and vague. Money and men had to be sent out, and in return after long weeks or months came dry despatches and convoys of wounded. Now it is graphically and freshly brought before us, day by day, and hour by hour, in all its details, by facile pencils and brilliant writing. What is the payment of a few pounds of income tax to the consciousness of fellowship with such glorious doings! The thought of those few we have known who were struck down in a heroic death is soon forgotten as our hearts swell with exultation at vivid portrayal of the embarkation and the voyage, the landing, the march, and camp life in all its phases; the defence against innumerable odds; the hecatombs of savage dead who have rushed upon our bayonets and been sacrificed to the deadly fire of Remingtons and Gatling guns. The cartoons are large enough now to show us the glare in the eye of our townsman or schoolmate (in the inevitable white helmet) as he gives the fatal thrust, and the death horror of the naked savage receiving it, who had not the wisdom to gauge the power and acknowledge the manifest destiny of our empire and our race. These illustrated papers must have a powerful effect, especially upon children. For the very few who shrink more and more of late years from opening them—and there are such—thousands are attracted to them by the manner in which they minister to their pride, and the love of the horrible, not unmixed with that interest which few can avoid taking in the portrayal of the heroic endurance and the indomitable pluck which high education, and breeding, and civilization appear to induce and favor to a remarkable degree.

It is interesting to consider the differences of

character that cannot but ultimately be evolved and accentuated between the British and American people in consequence of their different foreign relations. There is no class here that is not brought into sympathy with either the military or the civil services. The Mediterranean is always alive with steamers conveying backward and forward armies of military or civil servants and their families. With whatever feeling they first leave home, they return in a few years saturated with ideas of domination and superiority, not unmixed perhaps with a profound belief in their duties for good to the subject races with whom they are brought in contact. The thought of domination and superiority is, however, uppermost. Men retired from active service, whether by Highland lough or in the fashionable residence-towns in Great Britain (comparatively few select Ireland as their residences), give the tone to whole classes of society. Their ease of life, attained after comparatively a few years' service, is a standing proof of the advantages of foreign empire. And the contemptuous attitude of mind to which most of them attain toward the peoples over whom they have ruled, is easily translated into the same feelings toward all but the dominant class with which they have learned to mix.

In America, now that slavery is dead, you seem to have no influences tending in these directions. The struggle of life with you lies among yourselves, with your equals, or abroad mainly with those whom you must win, not coerce. You have developed as high a culture as ours; you have surpassed us in many of the arts of life; you will soon be our equals in the higher arts. Already it appears to me that Americans, male and female, of ordinary culture and education, are a higher, a more all-round, human type than their British brothers and sisters in a corresponding position. Your equal abilities and greater opportunities (Protestants as you will ever be in the main) cannot but eventually assert themselves in some remarkable manner, as abilities and opportunities have asserted themselves in the case of the British people in the capacity for foreign conquest. What your development may be can scarcely even be surmised until you throw off the shackles of protection, and until the field for the display of your energies, in the agricultural development of your continent, is much more circumscribed than it is at present.

All I have written is with the full consciousness of the many noble protests against a pursuance of the present bloody work in Egypt, by Mr. Morley, Mr. Courtney, and the provincial press here and there. There are as yet no signs that the mind of the British public generally is working toward a higher state of feeling that would prevent a recurrence of such a succession of warlike complications as we have had of late years.

D. B.

#### RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

LONDON, February.

THE English school is very well represented in this exhibition by a few very choice Gainsboroughs (which ought to have been at the Grosvenor in lieu of much of the rubbish the directors had to be content with). The portrait of Lepell, Lady Mulgrave—a dainty, beautiful lady, with the usual smile which Gainsborough reserved for fair women—is very delicate and subtle in color, painted in the slight and true method of his most individual period. "Squire Hilliard and his Wife," a handsome couple, Gainsborough represents walking arm in arm in a park, the lady leading a white Pomeranian dog, which continues the line of toned white of her carefully (for Gainsborough) painted draperies. "Mrs. Hibbert" is also one of Gainsborough's

very best female portraits, and of a very lovely woman. The arrangement of this seated three-quarter figure is very graceful, the line of floating scarf and crossed arms being carefully studied and the values well balanced. The large black hat, with yellow ribbons and black feathers, is excellently well painted. The last two examples being not far from the Vandyke portraits, our eye wanders from Gainsborough to see how he emulated his great ideal, and we must confess that he seems weak and unsubstantial, very inapt at drawing hands, and generally patchy in execution.

Of Sir Joshua there is the lovely child, "Penelope Boothby," painted in his happiest vein. The fair soft hair, surmounted by the large white mob cap; the surprised gray eyes, so kittenlike and sweet; the mobile mouth and the childlike pose—are all admirably painted, with so much softness and rich cool color; while the dress and arrangement are very happy. Another child's portrait, that of Lord Burghersh, represents a happy momentary action with grace: the grays and whites of the boy's dress harmonize most pleasantly with the subdued brownish-green park-like background. Angelica Kauffman's portrait, by Sir Joshua, is very sweet in color and interesting in expression, but is slighter than the above-named examples. There are many more of his that might be named, but excepting a sketch of himself in the attitude of a deaf person listening, they are for the most part painted to order.

Hogarth has a very good life-size portrait of James Quin, the actor, painted with great facility and warm, true color, and the famous "Southwark Fair," full of incident and variety, well known from the print. The painting is as good as usual with Hogarth; the bits of landscape seen through the openings in the buildings are full of aerial quality; the groups and incidents are well subordinated, so that the detail and individual character, while well defined, are not obtrusive.

The two Turner landscapes in the long gallery are both eminently representative of different epochs of his painting. "Old London Bridge" is in the early, quiet manner. It represents fishing boats arriving at daybreak; some have already landed their burden, others are just coming in; the sky is full of light. But far more interesting in composition and subject is the "Burning of the Houses of Parliament"—a masterpiece of brilliant effect and harmonious color. The foreground to the right is cool and night-like in color, the water and sky dark blue, the bridge seen in moonlight, with black boats beneath crowded with people; in the distance the blazing mass of the Houses of Parliament. The moving mass of flames is so exceedingly fire-like in quality as to illumine also with a lurid light the left water foreground. This is a noble Turner, as is also "Saltash, Devon," in which some picturesque buildings by the riverside are illuminated by a warm evening light, with a luminous silvery sky above.

The Vandyke portrait of Charles I. is a very imposing picture—rather conventional, it would seem, in its arrangement of curtain and archway and coat-of-arms resting beside it, facing the spectator, were it not painted with such dash and ease that the head and figure of the King dominate the immense canvas. Not far from this is a most interesting portrait of the ill-fated Earl of Strafford. The head is fine and gentle, rather sad in expression. The whole picture is rich and sombre, the white dog's head on which Strafford's right hand is resting, and the toned white gaiters, being the only lights in it. There is also a fine Vandyke "Portrait of the Duchess of Buckingham and her three children," rather conventional in treatment. The Duchess is affectedly pressing to her breast the miniature of her

dead husband, whose large oval portrait is above her.

A "Portrait of a Genoese Noble," Spanish School, is a very remarkable work. The figure and costume and hands, as also the clever arrangement of lines of the background and the general color, recall Velasquez. The excellent modelling, too, reminds us of some of his best portraits, but the head is less good than the rest of the picture—black in the shadows and unpleasantly red. The man is standing in the angle of a stone staircase, and has just turned to descend another flight, so that the lines of the staircase all point toward him from above. The Duke of Alva, by Antonio More, is splendid, though rather hard throughout. The face is like Holbein; the rest is most elaborate in detail, the inlaid armor being especially fine.

Mabuse's "Adoration of the Magi" is one of the remarkable pictures of the exhibition. The general effect is brilliant, hard, and wanting both in grace of line and beauty of expression, yet the color is clear and the draperies and accessories perfect as detail. Especially noteworthy as painting are the robes of the kneeling King, rich, deep-red velvet, lined with fur, executed in a manner worthy of Memling. Another beautiful piece of color is a woman's figure, to the extreme left, leaning out of a window in the red brick building, the blue of the figure harmonizing with the red in shadow. The whole picture is curiously balanced in respect to color relation between the two sides. The ruins in which the figures are grouped are naïvely rendered, and it is quite evident that they were painted from a new building of red brick and marble in which pieces have been damaged for the express benefit of the painter. In the pavement of the foreground the pieces can easily be detected, as they lie in would-be confusion, that fit into the damaged parts. The distant towers of Bethlehem are pale-blue as usual in distances of the Dutch school; to the extreme right, the green hills, less distant, are very beautiful in color. The only graceful piece of composition is the wreath of angels coming from behind the ruins, out to the right and circling round to the front. Each figure and object is painted quite independently of the rest, and there is nothing of the loss of outline and merging of one object in another, characteristic of the Italian masters. There is none of that devotional feeling given even to the ugliest faces by some of the Dutch painters; in fact, though there is a great deal of character, there is an utter want of expression of any kind, but a wonderful individuality and lifelike portraiture.

There are three large pictures by Rubens, from the Mariborough collection, which were offered to the nation, but refused on account of the exorbitant price asked. "Venus and Adonis," with the usual superabundance of flesh in the woman, is in no way remarkable. The pendant is very uninteresting in composition, and not so fine in flesh color as many of the Rubenses in the Louvre. The portrait which hangs between the foregoing represents a lady of queenly bearing and in regal robes of black, with high lace collar and open square bodice, who sits almost facing us. Her exquisitely beautiful hands are shown to advantage as she spreads them on her knee, one resting on a brown muff. Her skin is as fair as that of a young child. The features are very delicate and youthful, the hair fair, curly, and short, the head beautifully set on the shoulders and wonderfully well painted in relief against the white lace collar. The hands are long and delicate, with tapering fingers slightly curled at the tips.

Van Eyck's "Marriage of the Virgin" is a quaint composition. In the foreground is the Virgin to the right, accompanied by her mother and a group of virgins, one of whom is supported

by an amorous youth; to the left, St. Joseph, decidedly Jewish and right well satisfied, in contrast with the group of disappointed lovers who stand behind him in various attitudes suggestive of their feelings. One turns away sadly, two look envious and almost ready to quarrel; another stands jauntily throwing back his head, as who should say, "I am sure I don't care!" while the priest in the centre joins the hands of the fortunate pair. This scene is cut off from the others which make up this complex composition by a low wall.

A "Virgin and Child," by Titian, is most exquisite in color, warm and rich in the manner of Palma. The Virgin is dark-haired, with sweet peaceful face, and red dress very fine in color, its folds falling gracefully about the seated figure. The background is the most beautiful piece of landscape painting in the exhibition after Turner's. The distant hills of Pieve di Cadore recall the Louvre Titian of the same size. In Veronese's "Punishment of Actæon" there is a lovely effect of color. Over all is a gray cloudy sky of the most beautiful pearly tints, rather wind-blown and streaky. In the foreground is a pool of still water, in which Artemis and two nymphs are bathing. The figures are heavy and short-limbed, but the color and quality of the flesh are exquisite. One figure stands in the full light with upraised arms, and is so white and luminous in the dark water that she seems to throw a reflection on the back of the other figure, which, grasping a red garment, is crouching in the shadow of the overhanging bank to the left. Here is seated Actæon, a little back amid the tree trunks, putting one hand in consternation to his former face, his metamorphosis having already begun. The third figure is half on a lower ledge of the bank to the extreme left, and is pointing with a bow to Actæon and inciting two dogs, who stand back bewildered, to attack their former master.

## Correspondence.

### CONGRESSIONAL PARALYSIS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: May I offer to "S. M. C." congratulations upon his conversion, and thanks for his manly acknowledgment of it? There is still apparent, however, something of the timidity of one who sees before him a choice between two evils. He says that if the Cabinet officers were admitted to Congress, that body "should place the appointment of all Federal officials not named in the Constitution in the courts, or leave it to the President or the heads of departments, with such clear and specific civil-service rules as would strip these appointments of any collusive or corrupting factorship in any possible relation between Congress and the Administration. This need would also be avoided if these offices were filled by election." As to the latter point, I have no hesitation in asserting that if ever the executive offices below the Presidency are made elective by popular vote (and a Constitutional amendment to this effect would yet be much more easily carried than one admitting the Cabinet officers to Congress), it would sound the death-knell of the Republic. It is that very thing which has brought the science of administration in our States and cities to the brink of ruin, and the only hope of recovery is in the example of sound principle in the Federal Government through the appointment of all officials by one head. If, instead of local reform, we are to extend the pernicious principle to the national administration, then there is before us only the broad road to anarchy and ultimate military despotism.

So far from increased danger of collusion be-



tween the Executive and Congress, the public responsibility of the Cabinet is just the thing to prevent that danger. It is precisely this element which has changed the British Parliament from the corruption of the last century to its present purity, and which, by effecting the transfer of election contests to the courts, promises before many years to make the elections equally pure; which carried civil-service reform and has kept it effective for thirty years, whereas it is to be feared that ours stands at the mercy of that lobby of intrigue which defeats every other measure of public interest.

"S. M. C." hints at a Constitutional amendment to effect a change in the position of the Cabinet. It cannot be too often repeated, that the attempt would be so utterly hopeless as to be equivalent to relegating the whole subject to the Greek Kalends. The entering wedge must be a simple vote of the House of Representatives, forced upon that body by the demand of the country, for the expression of which there is needed only the call of a leader, the "Suzve-moi" of Arcola.

"S. M. C." ascribes his change of heart to visits to Washington, and this is the method by which I arrived at the same conclusion fifteen years ago. But the state of things now is such that this seems no longer necessary. Not to mention all the sins of omission and commission—bankruptcy law, silver coinage, the tariff, railway land-grant titles, the condition of the Indians, etc.—the last week of the session furnishes reason enough for demanding a change. The spectacle of the Speaker deliberately using his official position to postpone action on the appropriation bills till the last minute, while expressing a quiet confidence that there would be no extra session, and then sending them to the Senate, the only place where there is any discussion, so late as to render discussion impossible, and to force a settlement in secret conference committees—it seems as if this was enough to convince anybody who was not wilfully blind of the necessity of some strong and responsible outside control.

G. B.

BOSTON, March 6, 1885.

## TRANSLATIONS AND MISTRANSLATIONS.

## TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The discussion by your correspondents of the subject of translations has naturally interested me, and has suggested the making of a small contribution to it, which, however, I do not make for the value of the curious instance given, but in order to add a few words on the general subject.

I had occasion about two years since to look at Bohn's translation of Schiller's 'Thirty Years' War,' made by Rev. Mr. Morrison. On page 67, I found the sentence: "Could a mind so weak as that of Ferdinand," etc. The context made it so clear to me that the passage was meant for the Palsgrave *Frederic* instead of Ferdinand, that I turned to the original German and found that *neither* name was in the sentence, a pronoun only being used instead. The translator had evidently thought that he ought to relieve the reader of all doubt, and so supplied, as he thought, the missing name. We naturally wonder how such a blunder could have been made, and not less how it could have remained for about forty years. So it is.

The incident affected me singularly. Though the translation appears to be a good one, I have not since looked at it until to-day. I am now led, by way of supplementing a suggestion of Mr. Bourne in the *Nation* (1026), to make the following remarks:

1. People generally read either the original or a translation, or, if they read both, seldom com-

pare them, unless with a special purpose. If the translation read well, they deem it well made; the rule is safe enough in ordinary use.

2. The average translator, not to say the best one, comes nearer the sense of his original than does the most careful reader to that of a work in his mother tongue. The loss, therefore, which a book ordinarily sustains in passing into a new language is much less than the depreciatory tone in which translations are generally referred to, would indicate. These references are often the fruit of a desire to be deemed familiar with other languages.

3. There are many persons who could produce a fair original article in their own language, to one who could make a good translation from a foreign tongue which he understood. The severest critiques of translations are by those who never made one, and could not if they should attempt it.

Finally, the most common objection to a translation—it is very often just—is, that it transfers too much of the style of the original. But some elements of the style of the original must be retained. The translator can properly do but two things, viz.: choose the best words, and form with them the best sentences, in the language into which he translates. The facts, thoughts, arguments, and the collocation of the whole, are supplied to him. If Washington Irving had translated Schiller's 'Thirty Years' War,' he would perhaps have been criticised for not reproducing the racy humor of the 'Sketch-Book.' The supplied matter is refractory. A book is not worth translating if it must in this process be made what it is not in the original.

A. N.

BROOKLYN, February 28, 1885.

[None of our correspondents has touched upon the mischief which mistranslations may work when made the basis of further argument or speculation, and especially of controversy. A recent experience has taught us, for example, that no one ought to cite Von Holst's 'Constitutional History of the United States' in implicit reliance on the American translation.—ED. NATION.]

## TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The mistranslations given in the last number of the *Nation* brought to my mind some ingenious mistakes which I noted while correcting the French paper set for the Harvard admission examinations last June. The 500 or more papers which were written contained every variety of mistake, but there were two sentences which were the special stumbling-ground. "La pauvre femme, sentant la raison de son mari, ne bougea et se contenta d'écarter un peu son rideau pour voir sortir," etc., gave rise to "fearing for the reason of her husband," and "appreciating the reason of his marriage," and the words "écarter un peu son rideau" gave large opportunities to the guessers. Among the many mistranslations of these five words were the following: "She disobeyed his command," "she softened his rigor," "she shunned his bedside," "she opened her blinds," "she raised her head," "she polished her glasses" (common), "she listened to his reasons," "she lifted her eyelids," "she soothed her fears," "she checked her curiosity," "she moved her chair," "she joined in his laugh" (very common), "she broke her usual custom," "she stretched her neck out of the window," "she took up a small candle," "she threw on a light shawl," "she roughened her wrinkles," "she listened to her bird," "she kindled a fire in the brazier."

The second sentence was as follows: "Le pauvre garçon . . . se tournait et retournait sur son coussin, envoyant de gros soupirs et gé-

missant sans pouvoir se réveiller." Naturally, in several instances, the poor boy was "reflecting about his cousin," but the prize for ingenuity goes to this translation of the italicized words: "dreaming of great suppers, and groaning without being able to relieve himself."—Yours very truly,

F. A.

March 3, 1885.

## TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Your correspondent, Mr. Bourne, mentions several odd mistakes made by translators of books written originally in the French language. They are strange and grotesque enough; but they could be more than matched by examples taken from French translations of English books. The most amusing instance of a late date that I recall is to be found in *Le Livre*, vol. v, p. 619. One John Hollingshead having printed a book in London about theatres, under the title 'Foot Lights,' the editor of *Le Livre* found that title too much for him. He therefore ingeniously transformed it into 'Foot Tights,' which he, with equal ingenuity, translated '*Antalens d Pieds!*'

This exquisite blunder is the more remarkable from the fact that *Le Livre* professes to have a corps of editors capable of criticising all literary productions in all the languages of Europe.—Respectfully,

R.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., March 1, 1885.

## THE DEMOCRATS ON THEIR GOOD BEHAVIOR.

## TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Your implied prediction, in No. 1026, that if the Democrats do not make hogs of themselves they will enjoy a prolonged hold of power, will strike most Republicans, and many Mugwumps even, as somewhat rash. I do not think it so, and I wish to point out one strong reason why it should not seem so. Any one who has watched the last three Presidential campaigns in the North, knows that there is a large body of Republican voters whose strongest and almost sole argument for keeping that party in power is the necessity of preserving the results of the war. If you present to them any argument on matters of Government policy, or point out to them any dangers threatening our future, or show them ever so strong reasons for a change of the party in control of the Government, they answer: "O yes, that may all be so; but if the Democrats get into power the results of the war will be endangered, and that would be the worst evil that could happen. You cannot show us any danger that we had not rather risk than the danger of having the war undone." The result is, that no argument is possible. The danger which they imagine, overshadows all others, and they cannot be persuaded that it does not exist. It is a real fear with them; and however sorry one may feel for them, one cannot blame them under the circumstances for voting as they do, or doubt their patriotism.

Thousands of votes were cast for Blaine last fall on this ground alone. Any one's observation will show that men of education, men who are open to conviction on most subjects, were influenced by this more than by any other consideration. Now four years of wise and careful Democratic administration will accomplish in removing this prejudice what whole libraries of argument would fail to do. When it is seen that the results of the war are as safe in Democratic as in Republican hands, this fear will vanish, and with its disappearance a wide door will be opened to Democratic proselyting, which has been obstinately closed till now. Remembering, in connection with this, the closeness of the struggle at the last two Republican victories, one may reason-

ably expect a continuance in power of the Democratic party if it behaves itself well during the next four years.

Not the least beneficial result of the defeat of Blaine will be that arguments on questions of national policy can now be used with this class of Republicans with some hope of influencing their action. It may be hoped, also, that a good administration will furnish the party with a consistent and firm policy on important national questions. One main reason why thoughtful men have hesitated to work for Democratic success has been because the party has been so vacillating and untrustworthy on every great issue. Nobody could tell where to find it or what to expect of it. Perhaps this is a natural result of being so long deprived of power and responsibility, but it has been a hindrance to its success which we may hope to see removed.

Altogether, President Cleveland has an opportunity to perform a great service to his party, and through it to the nation, such as falls to the lot of few men; and everything seems to indicate that he is the man for the opportunity.

PRESTON.

#### HISTORY AND THE SUDAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In Mr. G. Stanley Hall's Introduction to the recently published volume on 'Methods of Teaching History' there is this important sentence: "Others, who have realized the pregnant sense in which 'history is past politics,' forget the other sense in which the history of the world has been at nearly every point very different from the history of the conscious purposes of the leaders in its movements, and that 'while men thought they were doing this thing by these means, it was later seen that they were really doing quite other things by very different means.'" This view finds an interesting confirmation and amplification in a passage quoted by Grimm, the great critic of the eighteenth century, from the famous Cardinal Alberoni, the powerful minister of Philip V. (I quote from a translation): "The spirit of system," the Cardinal says, "is not less dangerous in politics than in philosophy. There is a good deal of temerity in seeking the causes of the grandeur and decline of the Romans in the constitution of their state. Events in which human prudence had the least possible share are epochs rather than consequences; it belongs to history alone to detail the causes of the grandeur and fall of states." Grimm himself adds to this: "We must observe here, after the Cardinal, that M. de Montesquieu has fallen into this error, in his 'Spirit of the Laws,' with respect to the English Constitution. He seeks, and has the secret of always finding, in that Constitution the causes of events. If states were arranged, like a system of philosophy, on paper, this procedure might answer very well; but we see every day that the greatest events . . . are only the work of chance, and of a thousand arbitrary circumstances."

We do, indeed, see every day that the greatest events in the history of England at this moment are the work of a thousand arbitrary circumstances, and that her possible misfortunes, reverses, dangers, embarrassments, the "decline" (in a word) of England—which God forefend!—lies beyond the range of perceptible laws. \*\*

#### Notes.

THE CENTURY COMPANY announce, as in course of publication for the coming autumn, 'William Lloyd Garrison: The Story of his Life, told by his Children.' This work will make two volumes octavo, and will bring the narrative down to the

close of the year 1840. It has been largely prepared from inedited sources, and will abound in references to authorities. The illustrations will consist chiefly of portraits of Mr. Garrison and his nearest associates. Unavoidably, the work will partake of the nature of a history of the anti-slavery cause in the United States. The same house will simultaneously bring out 'The Life and Times of Samuel Bowles,' also in two volumes, by Mr. George S. Merriam, who, says the Springfield Republican, writes "with entire independence, from the standpoint of his personal opinions."

We understand that the sale in England of the great 'Dictionary of National Biography,' edited by Mr. Leslie Stephen, has exceeded the publishers' expectations. We have looked through the only volume which has thus far appeared, to note the number of articles having a special interest for Americans. Among the founders of New England we find the Rev. John Allen, of Dedham, Mass.; in the middle Colonial period, General Amherst, the captor of Louisburg and Governor of Virginia; in the Provincial, Sir Edmund Andros; in the Revolutionary, General Stirling (William Alexander), and Major André. Coming down to our own time, we mention Sarah Flower Adams, whose hymn "Nearer to Thee" perhaps obtained its earliest and widest recognition in this country; Lucy Aikin, the correspondent of Dr. Channing; Edward Strutt Abdy, author, fifty years ago, of a valuable 'Journal of a Residence and Tour in the United States'; and Professor Anderson, the "Wizard of the North." We have been struck anew with the general readableness of the sketches in this dictionary.

Among the latest announcements of Macmillan & Co. are an 'Introduction to the Study of the Law of the Constitution,' by Prof. A. V. Dicey, of All Souls, Oxford; and 'Principles of Economics' (a fragment), by the late W. Stanley Jevons.

J. B. Lippincott & Co. will be the authorized agents for the United States of the Revised Version of the Bible to be published in May. The same firm announce 'Lessons in Hygiene,' by Prof. John C. Cutter; and 'The Nature of the Mind and Human Automatism,' by Dr. Morton Prince.

Scribner & Welford are the American publishers of the new editions of Coleridge's 'Table-Talk,' Buchanan's 'Dictionary of Science,' and Bohn's 'Dictionary of Poetical Quotations,' mentioned in our last issue, as well as of volume vi (appendix) of Vasari's 'Lives,' previously noticed (Nation, No. 1025).

D. Appleton & Co. will at once begin to publish by arrangement, in six monthly parts, a new narrative poem, by Owen Meredith (Lord Lytton), entitled 'Glenavrie; or, The Metamorphosis.'

A new edition of Peter Parley's 'The Animal Kingdom Illustrated,' also known as 'Johnson's Natural History,' has been prepared by Prof. Alexander Winchell, of the University of Michigan. A novel feature of this work, which is in two large volumes, royal octavo, will be a "symposium"—Prof. E. L. Youmans expounding and defending, and President Seelye combating, the evolution theory. The publishers are A. J. Johnson & Co.

'The Structure of English Prose, a Manual of Composition and Rhetoric,' by Prof. John G. R. McElroy, of the University of Pennsylvania, is in the press of A. C. Armstrong & Co.

The special correspondent of the *Photographic Times* at New Orleans gives an interesting account, in the issue for February 27, of the experiments made by Surgeon John S. Billings, Curator of the Army Medical Museum, in procuring composite photographs of crania, in the

manner first indicated by Mr. Francis Galton. In time the types thus obtained from various groups of primitive races will afford a most interesting comparison.

*Science* for February 27 has some noticeable articles on the results of the Greely expedition, accompanied by a map in which a curious discovery concerning the width of Grinnell Land is shown by the unexpected direction given to its western coast.

The *English Illustrated Magazine* for March leads off with a long extract from the forthcoming book of Princes Edward and George of Wales on their voyage round the world, which will certainly induce no one who is not in the clouds in the presence of royalty and its progeny, to read the book either for its very commonplace literature or its less than commonplace illustrations.

*L'Art* comes from the same publishers (Macmillan) to show in its January and February numbers how such things may be done with credit. Besides the etchings (of which one from the Velasquez portrait of Pope Innocent X. is worth the price of the three numbers), there is a surprising copiousness of spirited process illustrations, showing how, in the hands of a good artist, a process block is better than a woodcut with poor art. A review of Perrot's book on ancient art contains, apropos of the section on Cyprus, some grave allegations which ought to interest the authorities of the Metropolitan Museum. The *Courrier de l'Art*, an illustrated weekly chronicle of the studios, etc., of Paris, the hub of the artistic world without denial, accompanies *L'Art* as usual.

We receive from the compiler and publisher, Mr. Thomas G. Thrum, of Honolulu, the *Hawaiian Almanac and Annual* for 1885, which contains a great deal of statistical information concerning the Sandwich Islands. The past year there was not very prosperous commercially, though the weather was exceptionally favorable for the planter. Japanese immigration is about to be attempted, thus deepening the interesting race mixture of which this archipelago is the scene. The Honolulu Library and Reading-Room Association took possession of its commodious new building. The importation of paper is on the increase, and Mr. Thrum thinks it high time that a paper-mill were established, there being an endless variety of materials for making the stock.

S. M. Pettengill & Co. send us the tenth annual issue of Street & Co.'s 'Indian and Colonial Mercantile Directory,' a work steadily growing in bulk, and of universal utility for those engaged in foreign commerce, whether Englishmen or Americans. A directory of the United Kingdom is appended. Numerous maps are interspersed with the text, and, so far as we can judge, nothing seems to be wanting that could subserve the end of this publication. The following titles under Brazil will give an idea of the scheme: general view of geography, natural productions and population; trade returns; a list of principal towns; principal products; books of reference; steam communication; coins, weights, and measures; customs tariff, in full; the chief cities in regular order, with ample statistical details and merchants' directory.

Two recent French announcements are 'L'Expédition du Rodgers à la recherche de la Jeanette,' par William H. Gilder, translated into French by Capt. J. West; and 'Jack et Jane, adaptation d'après L. M. Alcott, par Stahl et Lermont.' This adaptation of 'Jack and Jill' is illustrated. M. Stahl had already adapted 'Little Women' as 'Les Quatre Filles du Docteur Marsch' (sic), now in its second edition.

Mr. Bret Harte's new story, 'A Ship of '49,' which was published in a syndicate of American



papers, is now appearing in the *English Illustrated Magazine*.

The English magazines and reviews continue to give abundant space to theatrical topics. Mr. Henry Irving has contributed to the *Nineteenth Century* a brief note on "The American Audience." In the same review Mr. William Archer, author of an incisive criticism of Mr. Irving, has an admirable essay on "The Duty of Dramatic Critics." In *Longman's* for March there is a rough and broad sketch of Gustavus V. Brooke, not always in the best of taste, by Mr. John Coleman, the writer of two papers on Charles Reade in *Lippincott's*.

Taking time by the forelock, the managers of the Paris Exhibition of 1889 have begun to publish a folio *Moniteur de l'Exposition* (New York: F. W. Christern). Portraits of M. Rouvier, Minister of Commerce, and M. Antonin Proust, head of the Exposition Committee, adorn the first number. Besides official information, the paper contains a certain amount of light miscellaneous reading.

MM. Bréal and Bailly announce that they will presently publish a 'Dictionnaire Étymologique Latin,' in which they have taken especial pains to trace the history of words, and to arrange the series of meanings in their true order. Merely to give the derivation of a word would be like giving in a biographical dictionary only the names of the subjects and of their fathers. MM. Bréal and Bailly try to show, wherever it is possible, to what side of the life of the Roman people, to what part of the ancient culture each word belonged, and proclaim that what has improperly been called the life of the language is in reality the life of the nation imprinted upon the language—a remark that reminds one of the attempts to construct the life of our Aryan ancestors from the language of their descendants.

The discovery of terracotta figurines in the necropolis of Myrina resembling those of Tanagra has led to a little controversy in regard to their character. M. E. Pottier, in a thesis published more than a year ago, maintained that the statuettes were originally made without any definite purpose, and were used either as gifts to friends, or as offerings to domestic or to public divinities, or to the manes of the dead. Their character at once shows that they were not made with any exclusive religious purpose. M. J. Martha now insists that they were manufactured without any religious purpose at all, and are found in tombs simply because they were very convenient mementoes of the dead to put there. Originally it was the custom in Asia Minor, as in other barbarous countries, to bury with the departed chief all that belonged to him—captives, slaves, horse, arms, jewels. In time the custom became at first less cruel, and then less expensive. Still, some memento was to be buried with the head of the family, and these little statues were a convenient substitute for the slaves and animals of the earlier days. The difference between the two theories is not profound, and it is not easy to see how it can be decided.

—Mr. Charles Bray's autobiography, 'Phases of Opinion and Experience during a Long Life' (London: Longmans), comes with exceeding opportuneness so soon after the publication of George Eliot's *Life*, and affords a most valuable and delightful addition to our knowledge of her. The little book fills out the picture her letters had already more than outlined, of the life at Rosehill and of the master—a man of determined persistence in individual and often unpopular opinions, but always of most bright and loving spirit. The first mention of George Eliot is upon that day of which she herself wrote: "I have seen Emerson—the first man I have ever seen." Mr. Bray writes: "We should have liked to have

seen more of Emerson, but some Stratford friends came over and impressed on him that he was bound to pay homage at Shakspeare's tomb, and accordingly carried us all off, Miss Evans included, to their home near that church on the Avon." Mr. Bray continues:

"I consider my intimate friendship of nine years with her among the bright spots of my life. . . . My sister, who lived next door to her (Coventry, 1841), brought her to call upon us one morning, thinking, among other natural reasons for introducing her, that the influence of this superior young lady of Evangelical principles might be beneficial to our heretical minds. . . . I can well recollect her modest demeanor as she sat down by the window, and I had a sort of surprised feeling, when she first spoke, at the measured, highly cultivated form of expression, so different from the usual tone of young persons from the country. We became friends at once. . . . I consider her the most delightful companion I have ever known; she knew everything. She had little self-assertion; her aim was always to show her friends off to the best advantage—not herself. . . . There were two sides; hers was the temperament of genius which has always its sunny and shady side. She was frequently very depressed—and often very provoking, as much so as she could be agreeable—and we had violent quarrels; but the next day they were quite forgotten. Of course we went over all subjects in heaven and earth. . . . I may claim to have laid down the basis of that philosophy which she afterwards retained. . . . George Combe, on first seeing a cast of her head, took it for a man's."

—Professor J. B. Thayer, of the Harvard Law School, has published an interesting "memorandum" on the "Legal effect of opinions given by judges to the Executive and the Legislature under certain American constitutions." The clause giving authority to call for judicial opinions out of court is found only in a very few constitutions. In Massachusetts it occurs in this form: "Each branch of the Legislature, as well as the Governor and Council, shall have authority to require the opinions of the justices of the Supreme Judicial Court upon important questions of law, and upon solemn occasions." It is the Massachusetts clause which has been copied into the constitutions of the other States. It appears that it originally came from the usage of the English Constitution by which the King, as well as the House of Lords, had the right to demand the opinions of the twelve judges of England. The practice, so far as the Crown is concerned, long since fell into disuse, but it is believed that the House of Lords keeps it alive. In England it is well settled that answers of the judges to the Lords have no binding force, and are merely expression of opinions of high authority, though few people who discuss the well-known answers relating to insanity in *McNaghton's* case (10 Cl. and Fin., 200) seem to remember this. To quote Professor Thayer:

"Here not only was there no litigated question before the Lords, but not even any pending legislative question. The Lords, in the course of their debates, having fallen into a discussion about a case recently tried at the Central Criminal Court, but not in any way before them—a case developing interesting questions in the law relating to insanity—conceived that they would like to know a little more accurately what the law on these points was. They accordingly put a set of 'abstract' questions to the judges—questions not arising out of any business before them, actual or contemplated. One of the judges (Maule) protested against this proceeding, but, as the others answered, he also answered. . . . It needs no argument to show that opinions so given are not binding upon anybody, and should not be. If reasons were asked for such a view, it would be enough to refer to what Mr. Justice Maule suggested in his protest, when he objected that the questions put 'do not appear to arise out of and are not put with reference to a particular case, or for a particular purpose, which might explain or limit the generality of the terms'; that he had heard no argument; and that he feared 'that, as the questions relate to matters of criminal law of great importance, the answers to them by the judges might embarrass the administration of justice when they are cited in trials.'"

To turn to this country, the English rule has been adopted generally, and the Massachusetts judges, and those of other States, have decided that such opinions are not binding when the point decided comes subsequently before them in the course of litigation. In Maine the early opinions of the judges seem to have been the same, but in the political excitement of 1880 they adopted the opposite view, that their opinions were binding on the Governor and Council in the performance of their ministerial duties. This view was generally acquiesced in by the public at the time, but Professor Thayer considers it as a matter of law "strange doctrine," and there seems to be no authority for it in the precedents. Another fact which this interesting pamphlet recalls is, that Washington in 1793 tried to introduce the English usage with the judges of the Supreme Court, but they saw the danger of their being dragged into politics, and declined to answer.

—Except for a brief after word, J. ten Doornkaat Koolman's laborious 'Wörterbuch der Ostfriesischen Sprache' has now reached its conclusion in Part 22 (Norden: H. Brauns). The first number was issued in 1877, and the publication has since continued without haste but also without rest. The thoroughness of the etymological scheme may be partly judged from the fact that the index to cognate words in German fills 27 columns, in Dutch 34, in English 23, in Swedish 17, in Norwegian 12, in Danish 16, in Italian 6, in French 8. But the derivations are in fact carried back to as ultimate a root as possible in the Aryan chain; so that each member of the Teutonic group is served by this Dictionary of a special dialect, and all by comparison one with another. We have in our notices of the successive issues often remarked upon the close resemblance of the Frisian vocabularies to English. Such sentences (to borrow a few more examples from the number before us) as "Stille waters hebben de dêpste grunden," or "Dat was 'n wis wôrd, wat he dêr sprak," or "Braun goet beer, bakk goet brood," hardly need interpreting, to our eyes at least. The work is a thesaurus of proverbs and proverbial expressions, and when the author takes a fancy to one he is not above repeating it. For the third time at least he quotes, under *waren*, the saying, "Mêi gan un waren: sat eten un sporen," and dismisses it with the remark—"a golden rule of life, which has unfortunately fallen far too much into oblivion and neglect." Such an *obiter dictum* throws a flood of light on the spirit which has endured the steady toil of eight years (and how many more?) in the dry pastures of etymology.

—Some of the most important bibliographies are those which record the literary work of the monastic orders of the Roman Church. The Benedictines have at least ten, of which the best known is St. Maur's; the Franciscans almost as many; the Dominicans and Cistercians two or three apiece (a bibliography of the Spanish Dominicans is now in the press), and the Jesuits as many as all the rest put together, as might be expected from their great literary activity. Even the Jesuit bibliography of the Brothers Bakker appears not to have exhausted the field. Father Sommervogel is promising an elucidation of the anonymous and pseudonymous writings of the society. Till now, the Premonstratensians had been neglected, but Father Louis de Gonzaga, prior of Storrington, a religious house founded by members of the order expelled from Frigolet, who has spent twenty years in the compilation of materials, promises shortly a list of the works of the 1,500 writers which his order has produced from 1280 to 1884. A preliminary pamphlet published by Palmé details his plans, gives a bare list of names of the writers, calls for addition:

and speaks of the difficulties in the way of completeness. The archives and libraries of over 3,000 Premonstratensian houses existing in the Middle Ages have nearly all disappeared.

— The eleventh issue of 'Norges Statskalender,' for the year 1885, is published with commendable promptness. This is what we should call the Blue Book of Norway, *i. e.*, a volume containing the *personnel* of the Norwegian Government; but it is by no means merely a barren list of names, like our own 'Official Register.' The volume contains, however, the usual lists of the officers and employees of the different departments of the Government, the members of the Storting (Parliament) and of the High Court of Justice, the Norwegian and Swedish diplomatic agents and consuls, the members of the Norwegian Order of Saint Olaf, and the names of all persons who have earned medals for meritorious services. All these details are given with careful fulness, and supplemented with accurate statements as to date of birth, time of service, salary, official and honorary titles, etc., of each person. Brief, but concise, notes contain valuable information as to the functions of the different departments and bureaux; generally, also, the dates of organization are stated, in which cases there are careful citations of the laws creating each office. We have, besides, useful knowledge concerning all the public schools and the university, with the rolls of teachers and professors, together with information as to the various religious, philanthropic, scientific, and artistic societies or associations, the various museums, libraries, and hospitals. To a résumé of the contents of the budget for the last finance year is prefixed the usual introduction to European books of this class, viz.: a list of the reigning monarchs and their families. All this store of knowledge is made readily accessible by good indexes of subjects, places, and persons. The painstaking care of the editor, Mr. N. R. Bull, is shown in a hundred particulars, and the whole work reflects credit upon his industry and intelligence. It would be of interest, we think, were he to add a list of the persons who are paid pensions by the Government, at least those who receive their stipends upon the ground of distinguished literary activity. The list of fifty-one officers who have died since the issue of the volume for the previous year contains but one name of literary note, that of the poet Andreas Munch, which is included by virtue of the position he had held since 1866, as emeritus-professor at the University of Norway. He was a cousin of Norway's most famous historian, Peter Andreas Munch, and was born October 19, 1811, and died on June 24, 1884, leaving to posterity a long list of thin volumes of poems and dramas. During the year the University suffered the loss, also, of two active professors, one of zoölogy and one of philosophy. The list of deaths otherwise includes, as worthy of mention here, a member of Parliament, representing one of the southern seaport towns of Norway, an ex-Minister of State, and the Bishop of Christianssand, who was the successor of the late well-known Jørgen Moe.

— 'Sveriges Statskalender,' issued under the auspices of the Scientific Society, of Sweden, contains nearly twice the quantity of matter, but in general arrangement does not differ much from the similar volume for Norway. We miss, however, the head-notes, which go far to add not only value, but interest, to the latter book. The salaries paid officials are also omitted; but, as added matter, this volume contains lists of all the post-offices and telegraph stations throughout Sweden. We notice that of the 338 persons employed by the State in its telegraph offices, 150 are women. Of

these, 154 are operators, as against 7 men similarly employed, and the other 5 are office officials. On the other hand, no women seem to be employed in the post-offices, the only exception being the case of a telegraph operator who also acts as postmistress. The long lists of members of the various societies and orders of knights occupy 143 pages, and we note among them the names of twenty-four Americans. Number eleven of the eighteen places in the famous Swedish Academy, left vacant by the death, last August, of the archæologist Bror Emil Hildebrand, who was elected in 1866, and was for some time the Secretary of the Academy, is not yet filled. The index of persons contains the astonishing number of nearly 14,000 names, although it includes no foreigner not actually in the service of the Swedish Government. Both volumes are excellently printed, and are furnished in substantial cloth bindings for the reasonable price of five crowns (\$1 35) each.

#### HARRIET MARTINEAU.

Harriet Martineau. By Mrs. F. Fenwick Miller. [Famous Women Series.] Boston: Roberts Brothers.

ONE feels some instinctive distrust of a biographer who finds it necessary to begin proceedings by a studied attack on the last person who treated the same theme; and this especially where that predecessor was selected by the author who happens to be the subject of both works. Near the very beginning of Mrs. Miller's preface occurs the following passage:

"Mrs. Chapman of Boston, U. S. A., has written a volume in completion of the Autobiography, which should have covered the later period. . . . But it is to be remembered that when Miss Martineau committed to Mrs. Chapman the task of writing a memorial sketch, and when the latter accepted the undertaking, both of them believed that the life and work of the subject were practically over. I have reason to know that if Harriet Martineau had supposed it to be even remotely possible that so much of her life remained to be spent and recorded, she would have chosen some one more skilled in literature, and more closely acquainted with English literary and political affairs, to complete her 'Life.' Having once asked Mrs. Chapman to fulfil the task, however, Harriet Martineau was too loyal and generous a friend to remove it from her charge; and Mrs. Chapman, on her side, while continually begging instructions from her subject as to what she was to say, and while doubtless aware that she would not be adequate to the undertaking which had grown so since she accepted it, yet would not throw it off her hands" (pp. vi-vii).

The italics are our own; and a more malignant sting than they designate has seldom, in our judgment, been directed by one woman against another. What are the facts of the case? Mrs. Maria Weston Chapman, a lady who still lives esteemed and respected, was the honored associate of Miss Martineau in the anti-slavery movement, of which Mrs. Chapman, more than any other woman, was the American head. She, being also highly educated and sufficiently "skilled in literature" to wield an uncommonly keen and vigorous pen, was requested by Miss Martineau to edit her autobiography and write a supplement. She accordingly did so, in her own way. Her memoir had some undoubted faults both of omission and commission; and these were frankly pointed out in this journal at the time (see *Nation*, April 12, 19, 1877). We also asserted that Mrs. Chapman's memoir put Miss Martineau in a far more attractive light than did the autobiography itself; and we praised the work as showing, on the whole, "careful and accurate execution." But had it been the poorest book ever written, the tone of the later biographer would have been equally ungenerous. Mrs. Chapman tells us in her opening chapter that she undertook the work with the greatest feeling of

"sorrow and inadequacy for the service demanded"; and that she combated her friend's wish with all the arguments she possessed ('Autobiography,' ii. 140). These remonstrances were unavailing. We also have reason to know that Mrs. Chapman, instead of being unwilling, as Mrs. Miller ungenerously intimates, to "throw it off her hands," repeatedly expressed a desire to do so, and was always met by a firm refusal. Mrs. Miller is therefore left to the painful alternative of either assuming to know Miss Martineau's mind better than that very vigorous lady knew it for herself, or of having disclosed an instance of duplicity in Miss Martineau which would add another to the recent instances of unfortunate biographical revelations. Mrs. Chapman, at any rate, did not suspect any such duplicity, but went on to fulfil what she regarded as a sacred trust of friendship. To say that she did it, to all appearance, as well as Mrs. Fenwick Miller would have done it, is not a very strong expression; but she did it faithfully and sincerely, and it may be assumed that she did it truthfully, as the later biographer finds no error to correct except the extremely venial one—which Mrs. Miller calls "absurd"—of supposing that a certain letter from Charlotte Brontë, quoted in Mrs. Gaskell's life of that lady and beginning "My Dear E—," was written to her sister Emily, whereas it was written to some one else. It was, of course, an error, as Emily Brontë had already died; but the phrase is as unreasonable as if we should call it "absurd" in Mrs. Miller to speak of "Erinna the Greek poetess" (p. 27) when she means Erinna. In more important points, the views of the two biographers essentially coincide, except that Mrs. Chapman's, as became the work of a first biographer, was a little more eulogistic; while she did not, like Mrs. Miller, make the mistake of so attacking Miss Martineau's mother as to bring on an immediate controversy with the most eminent living member of the Martineau race.

This stumbling-block of offence being once passed, it is a satisfaction to be able to say that the biography by Mrs. Miller is a good, compact, unambitious summary of the career of a remarkable woman. The biographer's original remarks are almost always commonplace; she sometimes strays into political economy, and her mild platitudes are in great contrast to the vigorous summaries of Miss Martineau. When she begins, "Political Economy treats of the production, distribution, and consumption, or use, of all the material objects of human desire, which are called by the general name of wealth," the treatment seems very elementary indeed. In dealing with the difficult question of Miss Martineau's relations with Mr. Atkinson, she gives some additional correspondence between them; but as the correspondence already published was generally found too dull to be fully read, an enlargement of it hardly seems welcome; nor does she attempt the slightest explanation of the lifelong separation of Miss Martineau from her brother, after his review of the book, except to say that the criticism was aimed at Mr. Atkinson, and that the sister was loyal to her friend. On the secret of Miss Martineau's deference to a man by whom other people were not much impressed, Mrs. Miller gives no new light; but she quotes a passage from one of Margaret Fuller's letters (p. 172) giving a favorable impression of this gentleman, which need is, however, to be read in connection with another passage printed by Madame Ossoli's latest biographer, where she describes Mr. Atkinson more lightly, as "the professed magnetizer, with his *beaux yeux* and extreme sensibility, unable to confer benefit without receiving injury" (Higginson's 'Ossoli,' p. 224). The world has never been able to take Miss Martineau's mesmeric experiences quite seriously,



but Mrs. Miller evidently does, even to stating, without the slightest apparent consciousness of the ludicrous, that "seven mesmerized patients were sometimes asleep at one time in her drawing-room" (p. 196).

The book has no index and no bibliography, though much detailed information is given in the text as to the successive publications of M<sup>rs</sup>. Martineau. The author shows a good deal of moral courage at certain points, especially in dealing with that stone of offending, the 'Autobiography.' The faults of this unfortunate book are frankly conceded by Mrs. Miller; she calls it "interesting but misleading," "hard and censorious"; says that it "displays vanity," that it does no justice to "either the finer or the softer qualities of her nature," and that it is "the least worthy of her true self of all the writings of her life" (pp. 233-4). It requires courage for a friendly biographer to say this, and it is after all a destructive admission. It is a perilous thing to write one's own memoirs. As, after all that we may have heard or read of an unseen person, we instinctively base our final judgment of him on the first glance at his face, so, no matter though a great writer have put forth a hundred books, that by which he or she will inevitably be judged by the world at large is the volume which contains an autobiography. "Beware," said Wendell Phillips, "if your sixpenny neighbor keeps a diary." But the neighbor, be he sixpenny or otherwise, has far more reason to beware of those who may live to publish it.

#### PREHISTORIC AMERICA.

*Prehistoric America.* By the Marquis de Nadaillac. Translated by N. D'Anvers. Edited by W. H. Dall. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1884. 8vo, pp. 566, with 219 illustrations.

TAKE it all in all, this is the best book on this subject that has yet been published—not that it contains anything especially new, or that it is entirely free from carelessness and error, but for the reason that, as a record of facts, it is unusually full, and because it is the first comprehensive work in which, discarding all the old and worn-out notions about the existence on this continent of an extinct civilization, we are brought face to face with conclusions that are based upon a careful comparison of architectural and other prehistoric remains with the arts and industries, the manners and customs, of "the only people, except the whites, who, so far as we know, have ever held the regions in which these remains are found." That this is the only safe method of investigating many of the questions to which a study of American archaeology has given rise, we have repeatedly declared; and hence the satisfaction with which we greet the appearance of this volume and the importance we attach to its conclusions.

Summing up the results, as here given, it will be found that the Mound-builders of the Mississippi Valley (chaps. iii and iv) disappear as a separate and distinct people, and in their place we have the "red Indians of historic times," such as they were when the Spanish adventurers first landed on these shores. The buried cities, too, of Mexico and Central America, are made to give up their secrets (chaps. vi and vii), and, instead of the ruined temples and deserted palaces of a mythical people of high civilization and fabulous antiquity, we have the communal houses, often but recently abandoned, of tribes which differed but little in their mode of life and in their social and political organization from the Pueblo Indians of to-day. So, also, may it be said of the ruins which dot the shores and guard the mountain valleys of Peru. Great and wonderful as they are when contrasted with the means at the command of the aboriginal workmen, they are, after

all, but the evidences of barbaric magnificence, and, when viewed in the white light of history, do not indicate a higher stage of development than the Spanish conquerors found and partially destroyed.

Exactly who the people were who erected these mounds and built these cities, and what their origin, are problems which, wisely enough, our author-editor, except in a general way, does not attempt to solve. To us they are known as Indians, and if they are of Asiatic descent, as our author intimates, there can be no question that their ancestors must have arrived here at a time when the flora and fauna were very different from what they now are, and when they themselves were living in that stage of progress which we are accustomed to characterize as the age of stone. From this condition, low as it undoubtedly was, it was certainly possible for them to have raised themselves to the level of the most favored tribes of Mexico and Peru; and it is also possible that they might have been aided in this upward movement by "the successive waves of migration," which, it is said, may have rolled in by way of the Polynesian Islands, as well as across Behring Straits. Be this as it may, the subject is one which we do not now propose to discuss. As has been said in a former number of this journal, the Indians, so far as we know anything about the matter, may have started from different centres, travelled by different routes, and arrived at different times and at different places on the same or opposite sides of the continent. At best, it is but a question of probabilities, and our object in referring to it at this time is not for the purpose of discussing the feasibility of any particular route from the Old World to the New, but of calling attention to the wide extent and varied character of the intercourse which prevailed everywhere, in early times, between the tribes of our continent; and of insisting upon the necessity of recognizing this condition of affairs as a probable element in the growth and spread of aboriginal civilization in America.

In the above sketch it will be noticed that we have merely outlined some of the conclusions that have been reached, and have not attempted to give any account of the long and formidable array of facts upon which these conclusions are based. To do this, would require more space than we can command, and hence we content ourselves with saying that some idea of the amount of labor necessary to the preparation of this portion of the volume, may be gained from the fact not only that it embraces the whole field of American archaeology, but that it also includes an account of the manners and customs, arts and industries of all the tribes that were found here. Of course, in a work of this character, covering such a wide range of subjects, and involving a familiar acquaintance with several languages, and requiring numerous references to many authors of various degrees of credibility, errors of omission and commission are sure to occur. From the very nature of the case it was almost inevitable; and however thankless may be the office of noting these shortcomings, it is, in the present instance, made unavoidable by the promptness with which we have recognized the merits of this work, and the importance we have attached to its conclusions.

Before, however, beginning this part of our task, it may be well to premise that, in its present shape, this volume differs very materially from that in which it originally appeared. Availing himself of the liberty judiciously allowed him as editor, Mr. Dall has not only rewritten the chapter (x) on the origin of man in America, but he has so "modified and revised" other portions of the work as to lead to conclusions that were but little dreamed of in the original publication. Especially is this true of the chapters on mounds

and mound-builders, in which a series of facts, owing to a difference in the light in which it is regarded, is made to produce results essentially at variance with those it had previously yielded. For these changes, or rather improvements, Mr. Dall is entitled to the credit, and were it always possible thus easily to apportion the award of praise or censure, our task would be much simplified. Unfortunately, however, this cannot be done, for the subject-matter of the volume is so mixed that it is impossible to distinguish between what belongs to the author and what to the editor, without an amount of labor that the average reader will not care to undertake. Hence it is, that while giving Mr. Dall credit for bringing this work "into harmony with the results of recent investigations and the conclusions of the best authorities on the archæology of the United States," we can hardly help holding him responsible for the shortcomings of which this portion of the volume is only too full. That many, perhaps a large majority, of these mistakes can be traced to the original French edition, is true, and if we were dealing with that alone we might pass them by, as they do not affect the validity of the conclusions, and are, at times, of such a character that it must have been difficult for the author to guard against them. In the case of Mr. Dall, however, no such forbearance is possible. He is altogether too strong to ask or receive favor.

Turning now to the volume itself, and examining it somewhat in detail, we are struck first of all with the want of accuracy in the quotations and references. One or two mistakes of this kind, in a volume of this size, might be pardoned; but when they are so numerous as to cast suspicion over the whole of one portion of the work, the affair becomes too serious to be passed over lightly. To show that we do not exaggerate the carelessness with which this part of the work is done, it is only necessary to open the volume, we had almost said, at random. Thus, for instance, the figures Nos. 15 and 25 are not only imperfectly copied, but they are assigned to wrong localities; and the shovel, described (p. 171) as being "of stone with a horn handle," is really of horn with a wooden handle, and the account of it was given by Dr. Edward Palmer, who found it, and not by Schumacher. Of a somewhat different character, but none the less erroneous, is the reference (Note I., p. 163) in which Brackenridge, not "Breckenridge," is said to have "located by mistake a Trappist convent" on Cahokia Mound, when he expressly tells us ("Recollections of the West") that "the dwelling of the monks was on a mound a hundred yards west of the great mound." So, too, Dr. (Joseph) Jones (p. 48) is mistaken for Colonel (Charles C.) Jones; Putnam (p. 166) and Carr (p. 188) are made to say things which we are very sure never entered their heads, and Morgan (p. 386) is credited with a statement which he could hardly have made, at least not in the shape in which it is given. These are fair samples of the class of errors of which we are now speaking. They are numerous, but fortunately not of much importance, and though they detract from the value of the book as a work of reference, yet they do not materially affect the conclusions. Paradoxical as this may seem, its truth will be apparent to any one who will reflect that it is the existence of these archaeological remains that interests us, and not the particular localities in which they were found; and that it is with the truth of a statement, and not the name of its author, that we are chiefly concerned.

Other errors there are of a more serious nature, which may be classed under the head of incorrect or doubtful and ambiguous statements as to facts. Many of them are, no doubt, "slips of the pen," though there are others which we should not hesitate to characterize by

a harsher term if uttered by a writer of less eminence than Mr. Dall. Of this character are the assertions (p. 57) that "the Indians rejected with disdain" the fresh-water mollusks—*Am-pullaria* and *Paludina*—of which the shell-heaps of the St. John's River are partly composed, and secondly the one (pp. 180-181) in which we are given to understand that, except the meteoric iron found by Putnam and Metz in the Little Miami mounds, "previous statements with regard to the discovery of iron in the mounds are, without exception, unsatisfactory. . . . not a scrap of it having been found in numerous excavations made at many different points and in many different regions." In regard to the first of these statements we prefer to let Wyman speak. The account of those shell-heaps is taken from him, and it is but fair that he should be heard in answer to what seems to be a most unwarrantable inference from anything that he ever said. Referring to his publication on the 'Shell Mounds of the St. John's River,' we find (p. 11) that "there need be no doubt as to the suitability of these shells for food, as the Indian is nowhere very fastidious as to what he eats, and the 'cracker' of the present day does not hesitate to use them." In regard to the second statement—that relating to iron in the mounds—we are in something of a quandary. The denial is certainly as broad as language can well make it, and in this sense it is clearly an oversight. What Mr. Dall probably intended, was to limit his denial to the mounds of Ohio. Here he is on firmer ground, though even here we take issue with him, and willingly rest our case upon Atwater's statement (omitted in this edition) that "oxydes" of iron of the shape of a sword or knife-blade and of a plate were taken from the Circleville mound. The truth is, that, if the testimony of a competent witness backed by evidence that is believed to be decisive as to the recent occupancy of the earthwork which enclosed this mound, can be held to prove anything, we shall have to admit that the people who built and buried in this mound were acquainted with the use of iron. There is no escape from the conclusion except by showing either that iron will not oxidize, or that Atwater was mistaken in what he says he saw. Until this is done his statement must stand.

There are some other matters that we had marked for comment, but we are admonished to be brief. In fact, we fear that in dwelling as we have done upon the defects of this volume when there is so much that ought to be said of its merits, we have not kept within the limits of just and fair criticism. In defence, we can only plead our interest in the success of the work, and our desire to have the future editions, to which we trust it is happily destined, freed from the blunders which we have indicated. In conclusion, we must be permitted a word of commendation for the translator. Solecisms there are, and occasionally an obscure sentence, but these may be forgiven in consideration of the fidelity with which the text is preserved. Technical terms, too, are not always judiciously rendered. For instance, "excavations" and "rampe," we think, used as they are here, mean something different from a "trench" and a "flight of steps"; and a singular mistake may be found on page 133, where the omission of a proper name, and the translation of the word "aieul" by "grandson," makes nonsense of a classical allusion. With these exceptions the work is well done, far better than usually falls to the lot of authors who have to pass through a similar ordeal.

#### A NEW DEPARTURE IN ORIENTAL LITERATURE.

*The Repentance of Nussooh.* Translated from the Original Hindustani by M. Kempson. London: W. H. Allen & Co. 1884.

OF few languages is the literature, where there is any at all, so strikingly insignificant in value as is that of the Urdû or Hindûstânî. Quantity it certainly does not want, as thousands of volumes, mostly unprinted, and destined to remain so, suffice to testify. Out of the entire mass of it, however only a small fraction, translations apart, is found to rise above the most pitiful mediocrity. And this is not the worst. In point of profligacy, as are the Muhammadans of Persia, so are their Indian co-religionists, whose minds and lives their books reflect but too faithfully. The great aim with them (especially in what is, by a violent stretch of courtesy, called their poetry) being to give expression to what should never be expressed, and never conceived, any novel fashion that is set on foot among them, by a rhymester, in ringing the changes on impurity, is enough to secure for its originator a pedestal of uncleanly fame. Bitter as is the disdain with which the Indian Islamite regards his Hindu neighbors, as being idolaters, it would be well if he were to imitate them in their comparative pudicity of thought and conduct. Account for the fact how we may, it greatly redounds to the credit of the Hindu, that, so far as appears, centuries of evil communication with the followers of Muhammad have not operated to deteriorate him, in the matter of decency, below the level of his old-time ancestors.

To influence and encouragement on the part of the English in India it is well-nigh wholly owing that there is such a thing as methodical Urdû prose. Prior to 1800, at least as a literary vehicle, it scarcely existed. During forty years, or thereabouts, onward from that period, a considerable number of Urdû prose translations, all of them from Persian or Arabic, were prepared, for the special use of its students, under the auspices of the College of Fort William. With few exceptions, each of these evinces an advance in style on those to which it succeeded. And then followed translations from the English, several of which are of superior excellence. Concurrently with the latter, the establishment of a vernacular newspaper press, which, year by year, exhibits rapid expansion and growing importance, has served to stimulate the cultivation of the Urdû, until it has now become a language in comparison with which its crude germ of a few generations back was but a jejune and incondite jargon. Something of its popularity, if not of its development and polish, is, however, undoubtedly attributable to the substitution of it, in the civil and criminal courts, for Persian, which long held its own, in the conservative days of the East India Company, as the sole linguistic medium of judicial proceedings. That it will, at all events for some time to come, undergo much mutation is not obviously probable. For such mutation there is, indeed, no perceptible necessity, so diligent and apparently exhaustive has been the recent prosecution of its culture. Noteworthy, assuredly, is the fact that it has made more progress for the better within the last eighty years than it had previously made from the days when the contact of foreign invaders with the hapless populations of Northern India evoked its rudiments into being.

In these premises we see revealed the curious phenomenon of a language elaborated to a high state of perfection, but hitherto very rarely employed, for literary ends, to any recognizably commendable purpose, except in translations. Are, then, the Indian Muhammadans hopelessly sterile of intellect? By no means are they so.

Indications of ability are far from wanting even in the countless pages of their nauseous verse. All that is needed in order to their creating a respectable indigenous literature is, that they should employ their mental abilities in a rational direction. Moved by this conviction, the Government of the Northwestern Provinces of India was induced a few years ago to offer prizes for "meritorious treatises in the vernacular." It would be interesting to know to what extent the prizes were competed for, and what was the nature of the compositions which failed of winning them. All that we are told is, that a prize of £100 was awarded for the 'Repentance of Nussooh.' This tale, in the original Urdû, has been repeatedly printed at Agra and Lucknow—a patent attestation that it has awakened curiosity, if it has not also met with acceptance, in quarters where its salutary lessons have long urgently required to be inculcated. Its author is Maulavi Hâjî Hâfiz Nazîr Ahmad, who, after tried service as a Deputy Collector of Revenue under the English Government, now holds an important office in the administration of Haidarabad, in the Deccan. Its language is of the purest type of that current at Delhi, where Urdû is acknowledged to obtain at its best. Accredited authority has certified that, for an Urdû composition, its vigor of expression, the chaste and simple beauty of its style, and the aptness and richness of its idiom are probably unsurpassed. Mr. Kempson, who was for many years Director of Public Instruction in Northern India, has further, as we have assurance for stating, discharged his function in translating it "faithfully and ably," as was, indeed, to be expected from his admitted accuracy of scholarship.

Rather than a tale, strictly so called, the 'Repentance of Nussooh,' which has no plot to speak of, is a series of chapters of domestic history. Its central character, a well-to-do Islamite gentleman, who has a wife, a married daughter, a son arrived at manhood, and several other children, is stricken down by a severe attack of cholera. He recovers from it, and, on his restoration to health, prompted by a dream which he had in his illness, resolves to amend his ways. The unsatisfactory condition in which he sees his family he lays to the account of his neglect of moral and religious duties, and his connivance at the neglect of them in those about him. As the result of his change of mind, he succeeds, what between precept and example, in reuniting his married daughter to her husband, from whom she had for some time been living apart. His eldest son, who is depicted as a graceless reprobate, and whom he at first treats as if incorrigible, returns home, after divers adventures, with the loss of a leg, and dies contrite. The younger children, under the reformed guidance of their father and mother, give promise of growing up models of propriety.

Nussooh's religious attitude is markedly peculiar for a Muhammadan, who ordinarily, if not like an every-day Christian, much of an indifferentist, is apt to be either a sanguinary fanatic awaiting with more or less impatience an opportunity to wreak his malice on "unbelievers," or else an incomprehensible but all-tolerant mystic. Of distinctive religious dogmatism Nussooh is represented as manifesting but slight traces, if any at all. Christianity he is made to speak of without the least aversion to it, though of course he could with no consistency aside its prevailing Athanasian phase; and his references to his Prophet are as though he held certain of his characteristic doctrines to be nowise essential. In short, he seems to be hardly distinguishable from a deist who believes in a future state of rewards and punishments.

A somewhat remarkable production, accordingly, considering whence it emanates, is the 'Repentance of Nussooh.' Of its linguistic merit



we have already adduced an estimate against which it would be hazardous to appeal. Whoever, therefore, may have occasion to take up the study of the Urdû has now, in it, as a text-book, something very different, alike as to subject-matter and as to tone, from the well-known *Totâ-kahânî*, *Bâgh-o-bahâr*, *Akhlag-i-hindî*, and kindred repertoires of flagrant filthiness or wearisome insipidity.

*The Woodcutters of the Netherlands in the 15th Century.* By William Martin Conway. Cambridge (Eng.): University Press.

MR. CONWAY has made a most exhaustive monograph on the book-illustrations of the Netherlands during the period in which they may be said to have had a distinct existence—i. e., distinct from the block books which preceded and the style of illustration which succeeded them. Of the woodcutters—ho are the nominal subjects of the essay nothing is known, and nothing can be said—we do not even know if they were the designers also; and without some internal evidence that this or the contrary was the case, there is no possibility of making a demonstration. It is a problem only for the highest expert knowledge to solve, and not for literary investigation, what were the relations of the cutters of these illustrations to the art of their time; and although Mr. Conway has greatly dared, it is impossible to admit that he has made the problem clearer to the reader. Thus, in the section on "the Haarlem wood-cutter," he says:

"Three of the four cuts in the *Four Last Things* of 1484 had already appeared in *der Sonderen troest*; a new one was required for the chapters on Hell. This cut is remarkable because it differs from the usual Dutch type. . . . In those the mouth of Hell is seen open on one side, and devils are casting the condemned into it. . . . The Haarlem artist, however, discards all these adjuncts, and simply draws the gaping mouth of a hideous beast and a few flame-clouds floating about it. The reason for this change is not evident, and I do not know of its having been followed by any other woodcutter; but it is interesting as showing that about this date the restraints of precedent were being thrown off, and woodcutters were trying to stand on their own resources—with but little credit, however, as the result proved."

Now what evidence is there (certainly Mr. Conway gives none) to authorize the conclusion that the woodcutter had anything to do with the change alleged? And in his general analysis he deals with technical qualities for the satisfactory elucidation of which, to his readers, he should have given facsimiles of the cuts, for no verbal description can convey an idea of subtle technical differences. In default of facsimiles it is impossible to say whether the distinctions made by the author can be maintained, except by those who have access to the collection containing the originals. What we should have in such a study is the clearest distinction between the qualities of design and those which become conditional on the technical difficulties involved in cutting out with a knife lines drawn on a board; and if the data given do not contain the material for such a distinction, then nothing beyond guesswork is possible. This classification of the book-illustrations in question is clearly, from all the data we possess thus far, only matter of the most filmy conjecture.

The utter want of consideration given to the woodcutter of those days is indicated not only by the analogies afforded by other handicrafts, but by the absence of any contemporary notice of the workmen: their work was not even worth marking with their own names. It is, indeed, a curious fact in the history of all art that in the epoch when it is soundest and most masterly in general method—when the general quality of the school is at its highest level—the artist

should always be regarded merely as a craftsman, not entitled to the personal consideration which by a modern fiction genius receives from authority. The Netherlandish woodcutters, like artists in other walks and places, were personally of no account whatever; and indeed it may be doubted if, even in the few and short periods when the artist won respect apart from his work, the consideration accorded exceptionally was not due to personal and intellectual qualities quite independent of art. We know no more, therefore, of the subjects of Mr. Conway's book than we do of the cave-dwelling artists whose engraved fragments of bone or bone utensils we have, or than another generation will of the men who work the press for the illustrated magazines of to-day.

Mr. Conway has been indefatigable in research, and most careful and comprehensive in the cataloguing of the work attributable to his chosen epoch, the last quarter of the 15th century; and in the bibliography of this period his book fills its place, as an admirable and admirably arranged compendium of what remains and is to be found in the various collections to which the student has or may have access. It gives, besides an elaborate analysis of the entire series of cuts, not only a minute and well-classified descriptive catalogue of the cuts with their printers and localities of printing, but another of the books containing woodcuts—a masterly piece of literary condensation and arrangement.

Among the passages which particularly merit attention as an example of the author's ability as an analyst is his study on the *Chevalier délibéré*, in which he remarks with subtlety the qualities due to the designer and the deficiencies in the achieved result due to the low abilities of the cutter; but even here, in his attempt to trace the personality of the latter, he encounters the same difficulty which stood in his way in the analysis of the earlier workers—that of identifying the unknown workman purely by his treatment of a line in face of the probabilities of the shortcomings being due to impersonal technical difficulties on one side, or deliberate imitation on the other. It seems to us that there is not sufficient internal evidence to justify so rigid conclusions.

The make-up of the book is such as is to be expected of the Cambridge press; but its solidity and the excellence of its typography make one regret the more the absence of the facsimiles which are really indispensable to the wide usefulness of the book.

*Atheism in Philosophy, and Other Essays.* By Frederic Henry Hedge. Boston: Roberts Bros. Pp. 300.

DR. HEDGE explains, in the introduction to this volume, that by philosophic atheism he means "speculative denial of a supermundane, conscious intelligence"—"not to be confounded with the scientific atheism of the Positivists," he adds in a foot-note, although the Positivists reject atheism on the ground of its being, no less than theism, a dogmatic theological doctrine. As representatives of ancient and modern atheism Dr. Hedge chooses Epicurus and Schopenhauer, in order "to show the range of the atheistic mind":

"The contrast is striking. Epicurus was a flat materialist; Schopenhauer an out-and-out idealist. Epicurus was an optimist; Schopenhauer a pessimist. Epicurus was sunny-tempered, bland, humane; Schopenhauer was a cynic and malcontent. Epicurus gathered his followers around him in a garden, and invited the world to partake of his cheer; Schopenhauer shut himself up in a German *Stadtszimmer*, and wracked, with curses on the world, his spite at the world's neglect of his wisdom. Epicurus despised and derided all learning; Schopenhauer was richly, widely, profoundly learned. Epicurus exhorts us to make the most of life; Schopenhauer teaches

that renunciation of the will to live is the true wisdom. Epicurus lived abstemiously, and taught that pleasure is man's chief end; Schopenhauer lived daintily, and taught that the end of man is suffering."

We quote this batch of antitheses because it is the best thing in the book, which as a whole is not entertaining, the function of the essayist being too often overshadowed by that of the homilist. Dr. Hedge fails to grasp the significance of the ethical doctrines of Epicurus, and he goes so far as to approve of the popular judgment which, when it uses the word epicurean, means "something soft, luxurious, effeminate, timid, otiose." But this is a complete misconception of epicureanism, distorted by the Puritan mind. There is no scientific fact better established than this, that pleasure promotes vitality and pain lowers it. The Hedonists set up pleasure as the chief end of life, but it remained for Epicurus to point out that not all pleasures are to be aimed at, but only those which have no injurious consequences, thus implying moderation in everything. But his greatest achievement was the *aperçu*—a true flash of genius—that psychic pleasure is superior to physical pleasure; a doctrine which is neatly proved in Stendhal's aphorism, that duration diminishes the pleasures of the body and augments the pains, whereas the pleasures of the mind are intensified by time, and the sorrows weakened. Dr. Hedge is annoyed by such evidences of epicureanism in modern life as the "universal relaxation of discipline, abolition of all pain, retribution ignored, all strengths and austerities ruled out of life, softness in legislation and education," etc. But we are far from the good old times when mortification of the flesh and the scientific pursuit of unhappiness were regarded as the chief aim of life.

The essay on Schopenhauer gives a clear view of some of his leading doctrines, but makes no mention of his aesthetic speculations, which constitute an essential part of his philosophy; nor is anything said of the important rôle which Schopenhauer played in calling attention to the treasures of old Indian thought. Dr. Hedge ridicules with an exclamation point the belief of Schopenhauer "that the university professors were afraid of him—were afraid that if he came to be known they would fall at once into hopeless neglect, and therefore had combined to suppress him!" Perhaps there was no such conspiracy, but it is a fact that the doctrines taught by these professors did fall into "hopeless neglect" as soon as Schopenhauer became known, and the neo-Kantian movement, which he initiated, began to spread. Dr. Hedge does not fail to acknowledge the superiority of Schopenhauer's literary art over that of other German philosophers, but it is difficult to understand what he means by saying that he has "a crystalline, colorless, and yet singularly vivid and commanding style." To characterize as "colorless" writings which abound in wit, grim humor, sarcasm, exquisite imagery, and every other form of literary spice, is surely to use a word contrary to its sense.

The "other essays" referred to in the title to this work are concerned with St. Augustine, Leibnitz, Kant, Irony, Fetishism, Genius, "The Lords of Life." Of these the best is that on St. Augustine, a spiritual contemporary of our author.

On page 334 a statement is made, regarding the relations between pain and pleasure, which calls for correction. After pointing out that pleasure, if it reaches a high pitch, is apt to turn to pain, Dr. Hedge asserts that "Bodily pain, on the contrary, never breaks into any falsetto of pleasure, but keeps 'due on' its dolorous road, till anguish deepens into death." The old school of psychology pays no attention to the

study of morbid cerebral states, and therefore abounds in errors and misrepresentations. We will quote a single sentence from Dr. Emminghaus's 'Psychopathologie': "Convalescents from mania often assure us that they never felt so indescribably happy as during the maniacal attack."

*A History of the United States of America.*  
For the Use of Schools and Academies. By  
Horace E. Scudder. With Maps and Illustrations. Philadelphia: J. H. Butler.

WE have delayed our notice of Mr. Scudder's history unpardonably long; but our readers will thank us, even at this late hour, for calling their attention to one of the freshest and most thoughtful books on the perennial subject that have ever been offered to them; for it is one whose vitality many times six months will not drain. Mr. Scudder has equipped his book with all proper appliances for its use as a text-book—sections large and small, a very full index, chronological tables, questions, maps, small pronouncing vocabularies, and the inevitable illustrations. We must pronounce these last the least valuable part of the book. The pictures of the Presidents are enough to rejoice the hearts of all who voted against them; and some of the better pictures—the monk in the Scriptorium, the ship of the Vikings, the Indian and pioneer, etc., are either absolutely out of place, or at best thoroughly unreal. They are a sacrifice to a taste cherished much more by those who negotiate the purchase of the book than by those who use it. The appendix contains Mr. Lincoln's farewell address, the "Declaration," and the Constitution. In the last Mr. Scudder takes the astounding liberty of removing five important clauses out of Article II. and inserting them in Amendment XII., suppressing wholly the original clause on the choice of electors. We can see no advantage in this over the original order, with a reference to Amendment XII. in a note. In the pages of examination questions at the end are named a variety of books for parallel reading likely to interest young people. The maps, whether on a large or a small scale, are very attractive, and not at all too many. Of the pronouncing vocabularies we cannot speak so highly.

The history is obviously the work of a man who, with strong opinions of his own, is yet no unfair or unkindly partisan. It is very plainly a labor of love, as well as work done for honorable compensation. Moreover, it has in it what many writers are wholly wanting in—an intellectual and literary conscience. Mr. Scudder seems carefully to have kept the laws of proportion, not only in the amount of time he gives to each period, but in the stress he lays on the conscious and the unconscious in our development, one or other of which is generally neglected. We would commend chapters iii. and vi. in Part 3 as admirable instances of accurate *perspective* in writing. We think the book would have been improved by clearing away a certain unreal tone, which has clung to all the author's writing ever since his original delicate fictions. There is, not perhaps throughout the book, but often recurring, an air as if it had all been told, as Hawthorne's 'Grandfather's Chair' was supposed to be, to children round the fire at twilight, and as if these had been some of Mr. Scudder's own "dream children." There are signs of a tendency to become that most unnatural and weakening of literary productions, a "prose poem"; and of what for a school history is perhaps worse, talking down. Mr. Scudder is very properly not afraid of introducing hard subjects like Jay's treaty and the early tariff; he is right in thinking that school children can understand them. They can—and they can understand them in the natural lan-

guage, without turning them into words of one syllable. We do not feel quite sure that Mr. Scudder would not like to draw a protective tariff on the board, and explain the removal of the deposits by colored balls in the true spirit of Froebelism. The history of the United States is preëminently the history of men and women. We sprang full-armed into life, and nothing that savors of the nursery or the infant school has any place in the way our history is told. It is brimful of sentiment; but any sentimentality it may have has been put into it by writers who looked back on events through the spectacles of drawing-room philosophy. We trust that this criticism, even if Mr. Scudder does not see the justice of it, will not cause him to doubt our warm and friendly appreciation of his good work.

*John Howard Payne, Dramatist, Poet, Actor, and Author of "Home, Sweet Home!"* His Life and Writings. By Gabriel Harrison. With Illustrations. Revised Edition. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1885. 8vo, pp. 404.

NEARLY ten years ago, just after the Faust Club, of Brooklyn, had put up a bust of Payne in Prospect Park, Mr. Harrison issued a bulky work devoted to the 'Life and Writings of John Howard Payne.' It was padded with much irrelevant matter, most of which is omitted in the new and revised edition before us. It was privately published—if one may use this phrase—by the late Joel Munsell, of Albany, in an edition limited to 265 copies. In the years which have elapsed since the book first appeared Mr. Harrison has collected much new material, but neither has his style improved nor has his appreciation of the duty of a biographer. A quotation of the second sentence of the first chapter will suffice to show the quality of his style: "His varied talents, and his constantly changing disposition to follow this object and the other, causes (*sic*) the writer some difficulty in finding a climax to any of the many vocations which Mr. Payne attempted throughout his life." But no quotation can show the slipshod carelessness and complete lack of proportion which characterize Mr. Harrison's biographic work. Nowhere is there any succinct sketch of Payne's career or any distinct outline of his character; all sorts of letters from all sorts of persons are reprinted for little or no reason; matter which ought to be in the text appears in the notes, and matter which had better be relegated to notes encumbers the text. As typical as anything of the author's negligence is the fact that no mention is made of the highly interesting letters of Charles Lamb to Payne, recently printed in the *Century*. These letters showed that Lamb was intimate with Payne, and acted as his agent in dealings with the London managers; but Mr. Harrison makes no reference anywhere to Lamb—except a chance comparison (wholly absurd) to the likeness of Payne's style as a critic to Lamb's. In fact, one does not get as clear an idea of Payne's life and works from Mr. Harrison's 400 pages as from the brief sketch contributed a year or so ago to the *Magazine of American History* by Mr. Laurence Hatton. We have here an ample account of the ceremonies at the dedication of the Prospect Park bust, and at the reinterment of the remains of the poet at Mr. Corcoran's expense somewhat more than a year ago. Nearly fifty pages of Payne's verse are reprinted, though it is now of no great value. So is Payne's paper in the *Democratic Review* on "Our Neglected Poets." The list of Payne's plays is wholly destitute of bibliographical exactness, as it is a mere list, without any date or place of first performance, or indication whether the play is published or not. There is no list of the parts performed

by Payne as an actor—an absolutely indispensable adjunct of every histrionic biography, and one which the books of playbills consulted by Mr. Harrison would have made easy to compile. There is an index, which, so far as we have been able to verify it, seems very good. Of the illustrations, the most interesting is a facsimile of a letter of Edmund Kean's, recommending Payne to the manager of the Theatre Royal, Birmingham. The frontispiece is a portrait of Payne, engraved by Mr. G. R. Hall, after a photograph.

*The Author of Beltraffio, Pandora, Georgina's Reasons, The Path of Duty, Four Meetings.* By Henry James. Boston: J. R. Osgood & Co. 1885.

IN this collection of short stories Mr. James shows his usual fertility of invention and his remarkable powers of description to great advantage. With one or two, perhaps more of them, the American reading public were already familiar. "Four Meetings" is, to our taste, the most pleasing of them; "The Author of Beltraffio" has most of what the young ladies call "weirdness." The weirdness consists—we may say as much as this without revealing the plot—in the situation, being that of a man who writes books to the last degree artistic, but which are so repulsive to his wife, for what she is pleased to consider moral reasons, as to cause a tragic breach between them. The author of 'Beltraffio,' we are asked to believe, is the greatest English novelist of his time. His style is the purest, his imagination the loftiest, his fancy and humor the most delicate, his books the most profoundly interesting; but he is a devotee of Art for Art—that is, he writes in the way that Art calls upon him to write about what Life shows him, no matter whether the sights are such as Morality thinks ought to be revealed or not—for Morality, according to this theory, cannot impose limits upon Art. It is difficult to imagine a more unpleasant relation than that between a man who writes books like 'Beltraffio' and his wife, who thinks they offend against the laws of God and man, and who dreads them most on account of their probable pernicious effect on her child. Does not the situation throw some light upon the problem itself? In the English race the individual conscience plays a prominent part, and one marked effect of this is seen in the purity of its literature. It has developed pure fiction, as distinguished from the impure sort which furnished people with amusement in the middle ages, and even much later, and which has lingered on in France down to our own time. What the devotees of Art for Art want, of course, is not necessarily impurity, but fiction untrammelled by any moral law debarring it, as in England, from dealing with or treating certain departments of human life. But for English-speaking people, would not the adoption of any such theory imply a reversal of their whole historical development, the effacement of the strong Puritanism which for three centuries has helped to make them what they are, and, in fact, a change of race-characteristics? Rightly or wrongly, fiction with us must be *virginibus puerisque*, and we fear that we are still so profoundly moral, at any rate in this respect, that ninety-nine out of a hundred English or American readers will have less sympathy for the author of 'Beltraffio' than for his wife.

*Dickens's Dictionary of Oxford and Cambridge.* Macmillan & Co.

THIS dictionary, on the plan of the same editor's 'Dictionary of London,' is certainly the best guide-book extant to those famous and self-contained seats of learning. The use of the singular form in the title of the book is only justified by the circumstance of the two dictionaries being bound within one cover, for they are in all other re-



spects two separate books. Considered as one book, the two are mutually helpful to some extent, the one sometimes giving information which applies equally to the other. But on the other hand, whole pages of matter are printed word for word alike in both—an extravagance in the use of space which is by no means justified, since the common matter is just what could and should have been spared from both books, namely, full details of the inter-university sports of various kinds in 1884.

The dictionary is by no means perfect, although the compilation has evidently been intrusted to persons familiar as well with the inner life of the universities as with that part of their organization which is accessible to any diligent inquirer on the spot. The long articles on expenses, reading, and undergraduate life clearly show the hand of one who is, or lately was, at home within college walls. How far the editor is responsible for omissions and trivialities and inconsistencies, it is difficult to judge, but, whosever the fault, it may fairly be asked why a reference-heading should be given to cabs and not to hotels; why to "the tavern" (a nickname of New Inn Hall) and not to "Teddy" Hall (St. Edmund Hall); and why, indeed, to either? Why should we be told the stipends of nearly all the professors and readers, and yet be suffered to remain in ignorance of how much a regius professorship with a canonry of Christ Church attached is worth? The emolument of one of these comfortable chairs is from twelve hundred to fifteen hundred pounds a year, with a handsome and spacious residence. In the Cambridge book a definition is given of that unique organization a university, as the term is understood in England; but the stranger who may visit or feel curious about Oxford alone is left in ignorance as to the constitution and powers of a body the functions of which many an Oxford graduate imperfectly apprehends. Lastly, why are the famous Clarendon Press at Oxford, and the corresponding establishment at Cambridge, totally ignored as if they were mere independent printing offices, where academical authors might have their books printed "on the usual terms," whereas they are as distinctly university institutions as are the Bodleian Library and the Fitzwilliam Museum, and in their way as important as either of these, and certainly more widely known than one of them?

These are the most conspicuous omissions from a book that is in the main full, judicious, and accurate, and they are in some degree made up to the fortunate reader who shall come upon the comical anachronism contained in the state-

ment (under "New Inn Hall") that Keble College sent its plate to the melting-pot for the benefit of King Charles I. Keble College was founded in 1868, and Exeter is probably the society whose loyalty the writer intended to refer to.

*Wensley, and Other Stories.* By Edmund Quincy. Edited by his son, Edmund Quincy. Boston: J. R. Osgood & Co. 1885.

MR. QUINCY'S name is well known to most readers of the *Nation*, and has been immortalized for them by some beautiful lines of Mr. Lowell's, which originally appeared in its columns, and are reproduced in this collection of his stories. His life was devoted to the anti-slavery cause; for, though his original bent was rather to literature, he found, as so many Americans do, that in our practical life a purely literary career falls short of satisfying that longing to take an active part in the great struggle of humanity which is part of the inheritance of every educated American. No one can read such a novel as 'Wensley,' however, without perceiving that had he devoted himself to fiction, Mr. Quincy would have easily obtained a high rank as a novelist. The style is not that of our day, and the humor has an antique but perfectly genuine flavor, which will recall to those who knew him something of the nameless charm and attractiveness of Mr. Quincy's conversation—a humor not as shy or subtle as Hawthorne's, but colored by the same conciliatory modesty which characterizes what used to be known as the manners of the old school. 'Wensley' is a novel of the old school. The scene is laid in post-Revolutionary New England. The hero is a "rusticated" Harvard student, the heroine the daughter of a Massachusetts Tory, and one of the principal figures a New England clergyman of the period when New England was still a theocracy, and Sunday began at sundown on Saturday. The figures of Mr. Bulkley and his old negro servant are well drawn; and if the villain is a little conventional, his connection with the plot is well worked out, and the termination is thoroughly satisfactory. The effect in heightening the interest of a story of "suspense," which all the old novelists so sedulously cultivated, and which so many of those of our day seem to know nothing about, was evidently appreciated by Mr. Quincy. 'Wensley' is certainly not in the taste of our day; yet no one who is at all familiar with New England could read it without a great deal of pleasure—a pleasure partly derived from the interest of the story, and partly from the insight it gives us into bygone times and feelings.

"Who Paid for the Prima Donna?" is a short

story of the days of the "Old Park" Theatre (Mr. Quincy was an inveterate theatre-goer) when Malibran was in her prime—so much in her prime as to lead a couple of ingenious rascals to make her the medium, and victim, of an elaborate swindle, by which the singer, the daughter of one of them, was transferred in marriage to the other, the price paid for his wife being a cargo of linen out of which he swindled a third person. The subsequent history of the adventures of the father (Garcia), as given by Mr. Quincy, is very amusing, and the tale contains an original apothegm with regard to foreign travel that will do for any system of philosophy, Stoic, Cynic, or Epicurean, viz., that its chief advantage is that it teaches you that one place is as good to live in as another. The author himself, we believe, lived up to this by never going abroad. Mr. Quincy's minor writings, including his anti-slavery publications, would, his son says, fill many volumes, and we trust that the time may soon come for a selection from these also, under his name. He was a most careful writer, and what he wrote, even controversially, was done with the same conscientiousness that marks his essays in fiction. Every one who knew Mr. Quincy will be glad, at any rate, to possess this selection. The regard for his memory and character which we have, most inadequately, expressed in this brief notice, the reader will, as we have said, find beautifully preserved for generations to come in "Bankside," a poem that is a perfect portrait, such as only the sympathetic insight of friendship could have produced.

#### BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

- Arnold, E. *The Secret of Death.* From the Sanskrit. With some selected poems. Boston: Roberts Brothers.
- Bliss, P. *Of Sovereignty.* Boston: Little, Brown & Co.
- Battershall, J. P. *Lead Chemistry.* Translated from the French of A. Naguet. Ed. D. Van Nostrand.
- Blunt, Capt. S. E. *Instructions in Fife and Carbine Firing for the United States Army.* Charles Scribner's Sons. \$2.
- Dalton, Mrs. Sarah K. *How Success is Won.* Boston: D. Lothrop & Co. \$1.
- Robt. H. G. *A Dictionary of Quotations from the English Poets.* Fourth Edition. Scribner & Welford.
- Boddy, A. A. *To Kairwan the Holy: Scenes in Muhammadan Africa.* Illustrated. Scribner & Welford.
- Bryant, W. C. *The Unknown Way.* Illustrated. F. P. Dutton & Co.
- Buchanan, W. M. *The Dictionary of Science and Technical Terms used in Philosophy, Literature, Professions, Commerce, Arts, and Trades.* Scribner & Welford.
- Cedman, J. *A Solution of the Mormon Problem.* G. P. Putnam's Sons. 25 cents.
- Colebridge, S. T. *Table Talk and Omnipana.* Scribner & Welford.
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